

Gorbachev, Arafat meet in E. Berlin

TUNIS (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev and Yasser Arafat agree on the necessity of rapid global undertaking to end violence in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported Sunday. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), met the Soviet leader in East Berlin during Saturday's violence-marred ceremonies to mark the 40th anniversary of the East German state. Wafa reported from Tunis, headquarters of the PLO. The talks took place "in light of the escalation of repression by the Israeli army in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the pursuit of arrogant politics by Israeli leaders," Wafa said. Gorbachev and Arafat also agreed to coordinate Palestinian-Soviet relations.



Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة المنشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Nathan says Israel sent him to Arafat

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli ordered jailed last week for meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat last year, says Sunday as saying the government sent him to talk to the PLO in 1982. Veteran peace campaigner Abie Nathan, a popular broadcaster, is due to begin a six-month jail term Tuesday for breaking a 1986 law barring contacts with the PLO. Nathan told an audience in Haifa that the government sent him to Beirut during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon to try to free a captured Israeli pilot, the daily Maariv reported. "As I spoke to Arafat our shells were falling nearby," he quoted him as saying. "I asked him to make a gesture but he refused saying, 'You have 6,000 prisoners of ours and we have only one of yours.' Iranian-born Nathan, 62, met Arafat and other PLO officials in Tunis and Strasbourg in September last year in what he says were efforts to persuade them to make peace with Israel.

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State visit to Canada begins Monday King, Queen in Rome

By a Jordan Times Staff

Writer with agency dispatches
ROME — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Sunday on a two-day working visit to Italy before embarking on a six-day state visit to Canada. The King and Queen, who are accompanied by Prime Minister Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Planning Minister Ziad Faris, were received upon arrival here by the Italian minister of environment and other senior officials as well as the Jordanian ambassador to Italy and the Italian ambassador to Jordan.

The King is expected to hold formal talks with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and other senior officials Monday before departing for Canada.

The King's talks in Rome as well as Ottawa are expected to deal with prospects for peace in the Middle East, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese civil war and the lingering dispute between Iran and Iraq after eight years of war, according to Jordanian officials.

It will be the King's fourth visit to Canada, but the first for talks with the government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney who took office in 1984.

Jordanian-Canadian trade and possible Canadian investments in the Kingdom are also expected to be discussed, official sources said.

"We have increasingly better ties with Canada in economy as well as political affairs," a Jordanian official said. "Our economic cooperation has grown significantly in the last 10 years, particularly in oil exploration and technology."

"Canada's position on the Middle East has been very positive in recent years on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

The King is expected to renew the Arab call for a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East.

On the economic front, Canada has given Jordan 32 million Canadian dollars in aid through a government aid organisation, Petro-Canada International, to help the Kingdom explore for oil.

Canadian companies have been involved in setting up a factory to make medical capsules in Jordan and in several agricultural and engineering projects.

In addition to his meeting with Canadian officials, the King is expected to address members of the business community and deliver lectures at Canadian universities before spending the weekend in the Rocky Mountains.

The King will make a stopover in London on his way back and deliver a lecture at Oxford University.

The King and Queen were seen off upon their departure from Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members, Cabinet minister and senior officials. The Crown Prince was sworn in as Regent before the King's departure.

Regent visits army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday made field tours of several units of the Armed Forces.

After hearing brief reports on training operations, the Crown Prince conveyed to the conscripts the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and stressed the importance of training. Prince Hassan also welcomed military delegations that visited the units to watch exercises.

Present were His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, senior military officers, and a number of friendly military delegations. Prince Hassan was accompanied by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh.

Israeli army seals off occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army sealed off the occupied West Bank Sunday and put police and troops on alert as the Jewish state shut down for the annual day of atonement fast, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

The West Bank closure followed Saturday's sealing of the occupied Gaza Strip, barring more than 1.7 million Palestinians from Israel over the 25-hour fast, when all traffic stops, work is forbidden and radio and television close down.

As Jews mark the fast from Sunday afternoon to dusk on Monday, the Palestinian uprising enters its 23rd month with a general strike and protests.

The army maintained a curfew on most West Bank refugee camps, a military spokesman said.

After a break Saturday to replenish food stocks, Arabs in the occupied territories and occupied Arab Jerusalem resumed a five-day strike called by the revolt's underground leaders.

Palestinian sources said Sunday that a body was found over the weekend in the West Bank village of Beitunia. They could not name the dead man nor say if he was one of the more than 120 Palestinians killed by unknown assailants on suspicion of collaboration with the Israeli occupation authorities.

Army radio said a military appeals tribunal rejected a petition by four soldiers charged with illegally beating two Arabs to change the army judge hearing their case.

The defendants, from the Givati brigade, are accused of beating two residents of the Gaza Strip's Al Bureij refugee camp. They died later.

Defence lawyers wanted to replace Colonel Emmanuel Gross who voiced harsh criticism of army behaviour at the trial earlier this year of four other Givati soldiers involved in the fatal beating of a Palestinian from the strip's Jabalya camp.

The incidents followed Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's orders last year for troops to use "might, force and beatings" to crush the revolt.

On Saturday, the Israeli army barred hundreds of Israeli peace activists from entering a West Bank town to talk peace with the Palestinian residents.

An army spokesman said the West Bank town of Tulkarem, where the peace meeting was scheduled, was a "closed military area" and only residents of the town were permitted to enter.

The spokesman, who could not be named, said Rabin had refused to grant permission to the "Peace Now" group to enter Tulkarem. He refused to elaborate.

PLO says 100 dead or wounded

NICOSIA (AP) — A top aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said more than 100 Palestinians were killed or wounded in clashes Sunday in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Bassam Abu Sharif called on the United States and the United Nations Security Council "to act immediately to put an end to the insane terrorism launched by the (Yitzhak) Shamir government."

His statement was released by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunis and made available to the Associated Press in Nicosia on Sunday.

"Israeli terrorism exceeded all limits today, when more than 100 Palestinians fell wounded or dead in the Gaza Strip and West Bank cities and villages," Abu Sharif said.

Abu Sharif said Israel had decided to build a new camp in the West Bank and to expand the existing Ansar-3 camp for incarceration of thousands of Palestinians held without charge or trial.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are seen off upon their departure for Italy Sunday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His

Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein, royal family members and senior officials (Petra photo)

Palestinians urge U.S. to pressure Israel into talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Would-be Palestinian negotiators Sunday urged more U.S. pressure on Israel to begin peace talks and warned of more violence because of Israel's refusal to meet them under an Egyptian proposal.

A leading Labour party politician, Moshe Shalal, said U.S. help in choosing Palestinian delegates to talk with Israel could "rescue the political situation" following last Friday's decision to turn down Egypt's offer to sponsor a dialogue.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak proposed that talks in Cairo would include several Palestinians expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities. But the right-wing Likud party blocked approval of the plan by Israel's divided cabinet, saying it refused to talk to anybody linked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

One of the Palestinians suggested by Mubarak appealed Sunday to European countries and the United States to lead to the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

"The United States must take a more active and serious role to convince the Israelis to hold the meeting proposed by Mubarak," Radwan Abu Ayyash said in a telephone interview.

Abu Ayyash, head of the West Bank's Arab Journalists Association and a supporter of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, urged the White House to step up its own dialogue with the PLO "to counter the Israeli decision."

The Labour party, Likud's partner in the coalition government, had welcomed Mubarak's offer. Assad Saftawi, a Gaza Strip school principal and another person reportedly suggested by Mubarak, said he was shocked that Mubarak's plan was rejected.

"The decision will bring waves of violence and extremism," he said. "The blame is on Israel."

Both Saftawi and Abu Ayyash predicted more violence in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation if steps were not taken towards peace. "Palestinian moderation has its limits. If there is no achievement, then our people will go back to extremism," Saftawi said.

Likud contention

However, Likud members maintained that the vote last Friday did not halt progress towards peace.

"The peace process... does not depend on one vote in the cabinet," said Ehud Olmert, the minister in charge of Arab affairs.

He told Israel radio that the government could still agree to meet a Palestinian delegation if the members were acceptable to Israel.

His Likud colleague, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, blamed last week's rejection on the "stubbornness" of Labour in forcing a vote on Mubarak's proposal. He maintained the vote should have been put off until after Israel received an expected U.S. proposal to assist in forming a Palestinian delegation.

But Shalal, Labour's energy minister in the

coalition cabinet, said Arens never pleaded for a delay and came to last Friday's meeting with only a vague notion of what the United States might propose.

"If there is an American proposal, which we haven't heard explicitly from the foreign minister... this could rescue the political situation," he said.

Abu Sharif hits Likud

In Tunis, a senior aide to Arafat said a Middle East East settlement will be blocked if Israel continues to refuse peace talks with Palestinians.

Bassam Abu Sharif also urged U.S. President George Bush to persuade Israel to talk to the Palestinians at a meeting in Cairo as proposed by Egypt. His remarks were made in Moscow Saturday and distributed in Tunis Sunday.

"Shamir's and the Likud's refusal to accept Egyptian proposal regarding elections is irrefutable proof of their devotion... to their decision to reject any withdrawal from the occupied territories," Abu Sharif said.

Ahu Sharif singled out the Likud bloc, but made no reference to Labour members of the Israeli government who Friday voted in favour of talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

Abu Sharif said he hoped "President Bush will act positively and constructively to convince Israel..."

"It is clear the PLO has made all possible concessions to advance the peace process, and that the real obstacle is the Shamir government," he said.

He said the United Nations Security Council must take "practical decisions" to end repression in the occupied territories, before adopting an action programme for the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Avi Pazner, media adviser to Shamir, said the next diplomatic move belonged to the United States.

Israel, in constant contact with Washington, still hoped that Baker would formally offer to hold preliminary U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian talks on the composition of a Palestinian delegation for negotiations, he said.

"We will have to see what will be the next American steps... It's not yet a crisis and we have to do our utmost to see that it doesn't become a crisis," Pazner told Reuters.

"I think he (Baker) wants certainly to do it in agreement with, or at least in understanding with, the Egyptians. Maybe he wants not to send a letter but to send somebody else (to the Middle East)."

Pazner said Israel might also talk to Egypt in an attempt to break the deadlock. "There are certainly other avenues which we want to explore," he said.

An opinion poll in the daily Maariv suggested Israelis largely opposed talks with a Palestinian team containing people expelled from the occupied territories, as has been proposed.

Taif talks at 'crossroads'

TAIF (Agencies) — A leading Lebanese Muslim legislator said Sunday that talks to end his country's civil war were deadlocked and warned that a "more vicious war" would erupt if Christians do not surrender some of their political power.

Zaher Khatib, a Sunni Muslim who represents the National Front, an alliance of 18 Syrian and Iranian-backed Lebanese factions, told reporters that Syria would not withdraw its troops from Lebanon until the Christians agree to political reforms.

"We're at a dangerous crossroads," he said after 63 Lebanese lawmakers failed to meet for the third straight day because of deep divisions on the central issue of Syria's military presence in Lebanon and the reforms proposed by the Arab League.

The 33 Christian and 30 Muslim legislators were gathered in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif Sept. 30 by the 22-member Arab League to discuss a "national reconciliation charter."

Khatib declared that the Taif meeting was an "historic and golden opportunity" to end the war and should not be lost.

"The alternative is a renewal of the war, and this time it will be a more vicious war because the weapons are going to be more vicious," he warned.

There will either be "a radical political solution that fundamentally ends factionalism, or there will only be a truce that will seed new wars," he said.

Echoing the stand by Syria, he said: "The Lebanese problem is internal, not external; the result of a corrupt political system."

The Arab League has proposed

a two-year withdrawal by Syrian troops from western sectors of Beirut to the Bekaa Valley in the east, after which a new Lebanese government would negotiate future Syrian military deployments.

Christian leader and army chief Michel Aoun has demanded a complete Syrian pullout within six months.

The Syrians have made it clear they will not withdraw before the Christians agree to share power equally with Muslims.

They have also linked withdrawal of their 40,000 troops in Lebanon to an Israeli withdrawal from a border strip in South Lebanon.

The Israelis have refused to budge, despite United Nations pressure, and there has been no sign they have changed their minds.

Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim parliament member Youssef Hammoud said consultations in Taif had been deadlocked for three days by what he called a "bug of war" between Muslims and Christians.

But Hammoud, from the Shi'ite-dominated regions of South Lebanon, stressed the importance of a peace plan offered by Arab mediators as a "historic chance for conciliation."

The United States encouraged Arab mediators Sunday to keep working to achieve agreement at the Taif meeting.

"The Arab League committee has given the Lebanese people new hope. It deserves the full support of the international community," said a statement released by the U.S. embassy in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Violence rages in Nagorno-Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Armenian and Azerbaijani gunmen attacked each other's villages in and around the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh at the weekend and Soviet troops had to intervene, TASS said Sunday.

The official news agency said people were being killed every day, houses burned down and cars destroyed in the enclave where troops were sent more than a year ago to restore order.

It said the troops opened fire to stop an armed attack on the Azerbaijani village of Lachin, near the Armenian border.

"A large group of gunmen attempted an armed attack on the special district garrison of interior troops was forced to use firearms," the agency said.

It also reported that a military patrol in the town of Shusha had seized a number of Azeris who were firing at an Armenian village. Those held included residents of the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, who were there "to boost combat morale."

"People are being killed daily, houses burned down and cars destroyed," TASS said. It gave no exact casualty toll.

More than 100 people have been killed in Azerbaijani and Armenian in ethnic clashes which began 19 months ago over demands by Armenia for Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous region of Azerbaijan, to be transferred to its jurisdiction.

Since early August, the Azerbaijanis have been blockading Armenia, whose supply routes run mainly through its eastern neighbour. Troops were sent in to restore rail links last week but so far without success.

A spokesman for the Armenian news agency Armenpress said Sunday that no trains had arrived from Azerbaijan and dismissed press reports that the blockade had been broken. "The only food and fuel coming in is from Georgia," he said.

A spokesman for the special administration of the region, installed by the Kremlin in January, told Reuters the situation and deteriorated severely and was very serious.

"There are exchanges of fire from both sides, and recently these have become more or less constant," he said.

He said food supplies were being flown in by military planes. Road and rail links into the region have been sealed off for several months by Azerbaijanis in the surrounding area trying to force Armenia to renounce its claim to the territory.

Papandreou launches coalition efforts against heavy odds

ATHENS (R) — Former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, who faces criminal charges, worked against the odds Sunday to form a left-wing coalition government but a second national election this year seemed inevitable.

Papandreou, 70, accepted a three-day mandate from President Christos Sartzetakis Saturday to try to coax a Communist-led alliance to join his Socialist Party in a leftist coalition government.

He took up the mandate after the Conservative-Communist coalition formed in July resigned, saying it had completed its government clean-up campaign and wanted elections Nov. 5.

Papandreou, who ruled from 1981 until an election defeat last June, has little chance of winning over the Communists, who voted in parliament last month to have him tried on criminal charges.

The unprecedented right-left coalition used its strength in parliament to send Papandreou to trial on charges of ordering illegal telephone wiretaps while in office and complicity in a \$200-million bank embezzlement scandal.

Five other former Socialist ministers were also ordered to stand trial in the bank embezzlement affair or another scandal involving illegal grain sales to the European Community.

Papandreou said he would return his mandate to Sartzetakis on Monday, and announce proposals by his PanHellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) for forging a coalition government from the present parliament.

But the odds are stacked heavily against success. Both the conservative New Democracy Party and its Communist coalition partners have adamantly rejected any deals at this stage and insisted on elections in November.

With the Conservatives and Communists controlling 173 seats in the 300-seat parliament, there seems no way for Papandreou to avoid running an election campaign while under the cloud of a pending criminal trial.

If Papandreou fails the Communists have a chance. They have said that, like New Democracy Saturday, they will reject the mandate. Sartzetakis must then seek a national unity government and finally he calls elections. This is expected by Saturday.

Papandreou's decision to accept the mandate appeared to be a defiant gesture to show he remains a force to be reckoned with despite his recent misfortunes.

He has been trying to regroup the Socialist party, whose strength was cut to 125 seats from 161 in parliament, and woo back disgruntled members who left because of the scandals.

'U.S. forces were authorised to seize Noriega'

WASHINGTON (R) — Top Bush administration officials said Sunday that the U.S. military commander in Panama was authorised to seize military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega during last Tuesday's coup attempt if he could do so without bloodshed or using military force.

Both Secretary of State James Baker and Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said that the commander was also told to develop a contingency plan to use troops to seize Noriega but the coup ended before he could do so.

Both were commenting in separate television interviews on a Washington Post report Sunday that said U.S. forces in Panama were authorised to remove Noriega to a U.S. mili-

tary base, but by the time the authorisation was received. The coup had ended.

Troops loyal to Noriega put down the coup attempt by mid-ranking officers Tuesday. The military said 10 rebels were killed in the fighting and 37 people, including three senior officers, were arrested.

Baker said that a message had been sent to General Maxwell Thurman, the U.S. commander in Panama, that if there was an opportunity to take Noriega without risking bloodshed or open military involvement he was to do so.

"I think the message that was sent was that, if there were an opportunity to do this without risking bloodshed and significant loss of American life and to do so without open military

involvement, then he was free to go ahead," he said.

Cheney said that after the rebels had contacted U.S. officials to say they were holding Noriega, "I made it clear that our commander on the scene was authorised to get him (Noriega) if he could do it without using military force, and that he should develop an option or a plan to use military force to get him."

But Cheney said the United States never made a decision to use military force.

"That would have involved going in against the rebels and taking Noriega from them. I never thought that was a very good idea but we told him to prepare in case he got the order to do so and then shortly after that the coup fell apart," he

said.

Cheney said Thurman could have taken Noriega if the rebels had been willing to turn him over but they were not. He said Thurman could not have used U.S. troops to force the rebels to hand over the Panamanian strongman over unless President Bush gave his approval.

The Washington Post, quoting administration and congressional sources, said that General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, relayed the authorisation to seize Noriega to Thurman in telephone conversation.

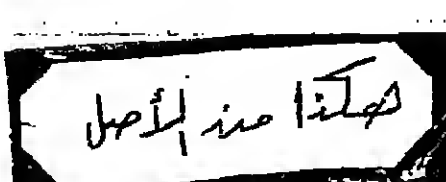
Thurman was told that if he acted, the mission had to be carried out without a visible display of U.S. forces but could involve military personnel operating undercover, the

newspaper said. He could also allow the rebels to deliver the Panamanian leader voluntarily, it said.

Thurman was also told to avoid armed conflict with troops loyal to Noriega or with the rebels, the newspaper said.

In another television interview, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said that the order to take Noriega came directly from Bush. "President Bush personally ordered what ever guidance was sent to General Thurman," he said.

Bush has been sharply criticised by members of Congress for failing to use the military to support the coup and missing its best chance in two years of apprehending Noriega, who faces drug charges in the United States.



Polisario attack ignites heaviest fighting in months

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Polisario rebel forces in the disputed Western Sahara launched an armoured attack at dawn Saturday, leading to the bloodiest battle since a ceasefire was declared by the guerrillas in February.

A government statement admitted 14 Moroccan soldiers died, including a colonel, in repelling the attack launched south of Guelta Zemmur from Mauritania territory.

An officer and 30 other Moroccan troops were wounded, the statement said, while 80 Polisario fighters were killed or injured. Ten jeeps armed with missile launchers and anti-tank rockets were captured along with four prisoners and 12 other Polisario vehicles were destroyed by Moroccan air attacks, the statement said.

A Polisario statement from Algiers, Algeria, meanwhile claimed "numerous" Moroccans either killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

The battle was "of a murderous violence," Polisario said, beginning at dawn and continuing for four hours. Polisario claimed to have breached 15 kilometres of Morocco's defensive front and pushed the Moroccan forces back for 25 kilometres.

The statement did not say how the battle ended or list Polisario casualties.

The guerrilla movement, at one time actively supported by Algeria, has fought a mainly losing battle against some 100,000 Moroccan troops in the disputed Western Sahara, claimed by Morocco since Spain left the territory in 1975.

Polisario has proclaimed it an

independent state. United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has proposed a plan to hold a referendum in the mineral-rich region.

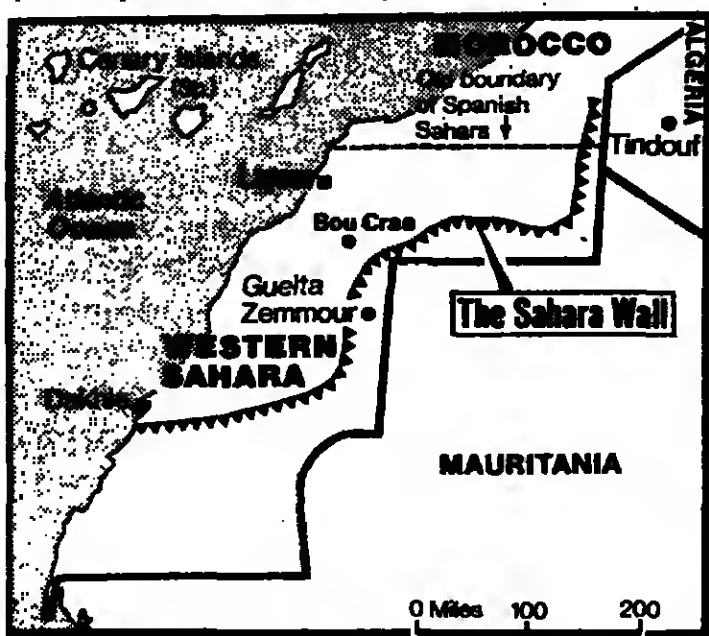
The fate of Polisario appeared sealed last year when Algeria became reconciled long-standing grievances with Morocco and joined the five-nation Union of Arab Maghreb comprising Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania and Libya.

The Sahara Front had been quiet, except for isolated Polisario

attacks, since the guerrillas declared a "temporary truce" in February following King Hassan II's meeting with the Polisario leaders in Marrakech. Similar meetings had been scheduled but were cancelled by the king, who called them "pointless."

Hassan had been persuaded by President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria to hold another meeting with the Polisario leadership but after the attack decided such a meeting would be useless, the official Moroccan News Agency (MAP) reported.

The movement suffered serious propaganda setbacks in recent days as several important members of its leadership returned to the Moroccan-controlled Sahara of their free will under an amnesty offered by Hassan.



Moroccan lawyers offer to defend editor accused of spreading false information

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — More than 300 lawyers have offered their services free of charge to defend the newspaper editor who published a communiqué protesting against the "questionable deaths" of four prisoners held in Moroccan jails.

Mohammad Idrissi Kaituni, director of the French-language daily L'Opinion, is charged under article 42 of the Moroccan press law for "spreading false information." If convicted, he could face up to five years in prison.

L'Opinion is the organ of the Istiglal (Independence) Party, the most powerful conservative political opposition group.

The first session of the trial was held in Rabat Friday but postponed until Oct. 18 at the request of defence lawyers to allow them

time to study the case, which promises to be one of the most controversial in Morocco in recent years.

The leaders of every opposition political party, the Moroccan opposition press, the three Associations for the Defence of Human Rights and lawyers from every Moroccan regional jurisdiction have virulently taken sides against the Ministry of Information and the Rabat police who are bringing the case.

The official newspaper Le Matin has not mentioned it. Morocco is governed by a coalition of political parties under a constitutional monarchy that leaves most powers to King Hassan II.

The joint communiqué of the Moroccan League for the

Defence of Human Rights and the Moroccan Association of Human Rights — separated by political differences but united in individual cases — was published by L'Opinion on Sept. 12.

It gave the names of the four prisoners as Abdelkamel Ouahabi, Abdelhak Chabada, Abdelhadi Ben Khalifa and Larbi Charat, whom the communiqué said died in prison between Aug. 10 and 27.

The communiqué claimed Ouahabi died of "ill treatment" in Larache Prison on Aug. 10 and was buried in secret. Chabada was said to have died on Aug. 19, on the 64th day of a hunger strike. Ben Khalifa and Charat were alleged to have been tortured to death, the statement said.

PLO intelligence chief links Iranians to mid-air explosion

PARIS (R) — The number two man in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) told a French Sunday newspaper an Iranian group was suspected of blowing up a French DC-10 over the Sahara last month, killing all 171 people aboard.

Salah Khalaf, known as Abu Iyad, said the PLO intelligence services which he commands were helping French security probe the destruction of the airliner on Sept. 19.

In an interview with Le Journal du Dimanche, Abu Iyad was asked whether he thought the anti-PLO Palestinian dissident Ahmad Jibril was responsible, as some French media reports quoting official sources have suggested.

"At the moment there is no clear evidence to incriminate Jibril, either in the possession of the Americans or of the French or in our own."

"However, certain information permits one to suspect Iranian elements which cooperate technically with Jibril," Abu Iyad said.

French officials and the UTA (Union des Transports Aériens) airline say they are certain the explosive were smuggled into the forward baggage hold at the

Congolese capital Brazzaville. Flight UT 772 blew up over the Sahara desert in Niger after taking off from a stopover in Chad on its way to Paris.

Anonymous telephone callers in various capitals have claimed responsibility but French investigators have not indicated which, if any, they are taking seriously. Jibril has been linked by British investigators to the carbon copy destruction of a Pan Am Jumbo Jet over Scotland last December which killed 270 people.

His Damascus-based group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), has repeatedly denied any involvement.

Abu Iyad, who was interviewed in Tunis, confirmed reports that Jibril's faction had strengthened ties with the hard-line Hizbollah group in Lebanon who are close to the former Iranian Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

"Yes, it's true. It goes back a few months and in fact Jibril has been in Tehran for the past few days. I can even let you into a secret — he's growing a beard," joked Abu Iyad. The newspaper did not say when the interview took place.

But Abu Iyad cast doubt on theories that he French media that

Syria was behind the UTA disaster as a way of punishing France for its Lebanon initiatives.

"The Syrians are intelligent people. They never get directly involved in this sort of business although it would not happen without their knowledge," he said.

The Syrians and their Lebanese allies were furious when France sent a naval fleet to the Eastern Mediterranean in August at the height of fighting in Beirut. They accused Paris of supporting Falangist forces.

French police scientists examining the wreckage in Paris have found substantial traces of pentrite, a widely available explosive, according to sources close to the forensic inquiry.

But they have found no evidence of any other explosive, ruling out theories that the UTA airliner was destroyed by the Czechoslovak-made substance Semtex.

British investigators believe the Pan Am Jumbo was blown up by Semtex, which is normally sold to East Bloc nations and which has fallen into the hands of anti-Western groups in the Middle East and of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), according to security experts.

Sadat's daughter warns of war if Mideast peace process ends

WASHINGTON (R) — The daughter of assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said Saturday that the United States risks allowing the Palestinian uprising to turn into a holy war if it allows the peace process in Israel to collapse.

Camelia Sadat, in an interview with Reuters, said of the 22-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza: "It is a crucial time now. After almost two years of the intifada you don't want it to turn fanatic. You don't want a Jihad there."

Sadat, who is lobbying congress-

ional leaders to form a bipartisan group to visit the Middle East, met with Vice-President Dan Quayle Friday to urge U.S. support for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's peace initiative.

Stepped-up U.S. attention could maintain the rapidly dissipating momentum for Middle East peace, she said.

Sadat, a student in peace studies at Boston University, is chairman of the U.S.-funded Sadat Peace Foundation.

The Israeli cabinet deadlocked Friday on Mubarak's proposal to convene Israeli-Palestinian talks

in Cairo on plans for elections and for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"I felt like my father died again," Sadat said of the Israeli deadlock, which amounts to a rejection under the coalition government rules.

President Sadat negotiated the Camp David Middle East accords with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, ending hostilities between Egypt and Israel.

The State Department is characterizing the Israeli cabinet's stalemate as "internal parliamentary manoeuvring."

Chinese minister urges Gulf peace

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen met with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, in Tehran Saturday, and said Peking will press for permanent peace in the Gulf war, Iran's state-run television reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Cyprus, said Qichen began the first of his three-day visit by placing a wreath on the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic

who died June 3.

In his meeting with Velayati, Qichen said that as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, "China would like to do its share to bring permanent peace to the region," the television reported.

The 8-year Iran-Iraq war was halted with a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire on Aug. 20 last year. But peace talks that began five days later have deadlocked.

Iran's parliament speaker,

Mahdi Karubi, who met Qichen later Saturday, thanked China for standing behind the Islamic Republic.

He said China's friendship "was especially proven when Iran faced pressures from the United States and other Western countries."

That was an apparent reference to China's role as one of Iran's main arms suppliers during the war, when Tehran faced an arms embargo by the United States

Arabs, Israel race to build up submarine fleets

By John Fullerton
Reuters

CAIRO — Arab and Israeli navies have embarked on an underwater arms race, with potential purchases of submarines and related hardware worth billions of dollars to foreign, mainly European, suppliers.

Defence specialists in the Middle East told Reuters that Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria were among regional states either already on a spending spree or thinking of joining in.

"Once your potential rival has submarines," said a naval officer, "it compels you to devote resources to the very costly business of anti-submarine warfare."

Orders for submarine warfare equipment to be deployed beneath the tranquil surfaces of

the Mediterranean, Red Sea and even the shallow Gulf may provide European shipyards with a welcome shot in the arm, but they pose political dilemmas for U.S. policy-makers.

First, most orders are likely to be placed in Europe because the United States has long given up production of conventional-powered submarines in favour of nuclear vessels.

This raised the sensitive domestic issue of whether U.S. military assistance to Israel and Egypt could be used to buy weapon systems which are not made by U.S. workers.

Second, some experts argued that proliferation of small, in-shore diesel submarines poses a threat to major powers.

In the wide expanses of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, NATO and Warsaw Pact navies rely largely on passive sonars to listen for a submerged foe.

But different tactics might be required to deal with conflicts in the confines of Middle East waters.

Here layers of warm and cool water were irregular and the shipping lanes crowded, making it hard to locate a diesel-electric submarine.

The Pentagon, in an era of rapprochement with Mikhail Gorbachev's Soviet Union, might grow less worried about a possible war at sea between the superpowers and focus more on local, low-intensity threats.

Libya, long a thorn in Washington's side, already has the Arab World's most formidable submarine force, including miniature submarines designed to carry limpet mines.

The specialists said Saudi Arabia had revived interest in developing its first submarine flotilla and was discussing possi-

ble purchases from Europe.

Britain's new type 2400 Upholder class, built for the Royal Navy by Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd, was one option being considered by Riyadh, they added. But Sweden, Italy, France and West Germany offered strong competition.

Israel agreed last month to purchase two diesel submarines to be built in West Germany through a U.S. shipyard, thus ensuring that part of the cost will be met by U.S. military assistance, Israeli sources said.

The sale needs formal approval from Bonn, which normally bars arms sales to areas of potential conflict.

The sources said the contract, reported by Jane's Defence Weekly to be worth \$570 million, was signed in New

York and that the submarines would be built by Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW) of Kiel.

Egypt has bought two ex-Oberon class submarines from the British-based Seaford group, naval sources said. The hulks were to be re-equipped under a plan to upgrade the country's force of eight operational submarines.

The latest edition of Jane's Defence Weekly, published Wednesday, said the ex-Oberons may be fitted with the U.S. anti-shiping Harpoon missile and modern torpedoes. Both weapons would probably be covered by U.S. aid.

Egypt's four elderly, Chinese-built Romeo class submarines will be overhauled by the U.S. company Tacoma Boatbuilding in a contract announced in July worth \$113 million.

Naval observers said they expected Syria also to upgrade its obsolescent Soviet-built Romeo force, possibly with Moscow's latest Kilo class diesel attack submarines.

Submarines were particularly attractive to Arab navies because they could survive conflict in the East Mediterranean despite Israeli air superiority — unlike surface combatants.

Mining of the Gulf during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war and costly measures needed to protect shipping there had helped spur interest in submarines.

They were also well-suited for landing raiders secretly on an enemy coastline or for intelligence missions.

"Submarines are useful weapons to keep in one's back pocket... particularly for tasks which a country does not want attributed to it," said a naval observer.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Bonn said helping to build Libyan missiles

LONDON (R) — A British newspaper has said that West German technicians are helping Libya develop missiles capable of hitting targets in most of North Africa. The Sunday Times correspondent quoted U.S. intelligence sources as saying the missiles will have a range of up to 720 kilometres, putting Egypt, Chad and even a NATO base in Sicily within their range. The newspaper said it was told by a U.S. military source that about 100 West German engineers were in a camp about 96 kilometres from the Libyan oasis of Sebha taking part in the project, code-named Intisaf. It said the project was in the research and development stage. Apart from conventional warheads, the missiles were also being designed to carry chemical weapons, the newspaper added. Several West German firms are under investigation on suspicion of evading export laws to help Libya build a factory which the United States believes is designed to produce chemical weapons. Libya has said the plant at Rabat will make only medicines but the U.S. and other Western governments believe it was designed to produce poison gas. The correspondent said the chief West German public prosecutor in Munich, Friedrich Bethke, confirmed that he was investigating whether West German companies were involved in a Libyan missile project.

Qatar detonates floating mine

DOHA (AP) — A mine floating off the central Gulf state of Qatar has been detonated by naval forces, the Qatar News Agency has reported. It quoted an armed forces official as saying the mine was located about 64 kilometres off the capital of Doha. The official, who was not named, gave no other details. Several mines planted during the 8-year Iran-Iraq war have been located since last year's ceasefire. Western navies, who were in the Gulf protecting shipping during the final stages of the war, have swept international shipping lanes. But U.S. navy experts have estimated that there may be as many as 200 mines still in the strategic waterway, mainly in its northern region. The regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment, which groups the eight Gulf states, plans a major sweep of sea lanes to clear mines as well as sunken ships and other war debris.

Iranian cleric arrested in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkish police arrested an Iranian cleric for delivering a political sermon during Friday prayers at the Mercaz Mosque, which is frequented by Iranians in exile, a Turkish police official said Saturday. The official, who requested anonymity, declined to give any other details or name the Iranian following the arrest in Istanbul's Beyazit district. Tehran Radio, monitored in Cyprus, said the elderly cleric was detained after he denounced the beheading of 16 Kuwaiti Shiite Muslims in Saudi Arabia earlier this month for planting bombs in Mecca, Islam's holiest shrine, during the annual Muslim pilgrimage. The executions have intensified a rift between Iran and Saudi Arabia and triggered calls for retaliation. The radio, which also did not name the cleric, said Iranian diplomats in Turkey protested the arrest and demanded authorities either release the man or allow him to fly to Tehran. An Iranian consular official in Istanbul later told reporters the cleric was expelled from Turkey Saturday. Reporters who visited the mosque Saturday found it had been locked up. Many Iranians in Istanbul attended the mosque because it followed the Shiite Muslim tradition.

Zambians open talks in Tehran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Zambian Prime Minister Malimba Masheke has begun talks in Tehran on ways to strengthen political and economic ties with Iran, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said Iran's first Vice President Hassan Habibi stressed that "Iran attaches great importance to its ties with the Third World, especially with African states, and has given top priority to its policy of protecting the oppressed." Habibi's comments underlined Iran's efforts to forge new links with developing countries in line with its aim of becoming the champion of the Third World. Habibi reminded Masheke that immediately after the Islamic Republic toppled Iran's monarchy in 1979, it severed ties with South Africa. "Based on our ideology, we have been, and always will be, opposed to racial segregation," the radio quoted Habibi as saying. Masheke blamed Pretoria "for all the misfortunes in the region," the radio said. Iran has named South Africa as one of the three countries with which it can never have ties. The other two countries are Israel and the United States. Tehran has signed a string of economic agreements with a number of African countries recently. Diplomatic, trade and cultural exchanges between Iran and other African countries have also been stepped up. In July Tehran set up a regular shipping line between Iran and the East African states.

Fouladi to meet Cooper

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian deported by Britain to Tehran after serving a 10-year prison term for a bombing has been granted permission to visit Roger Cooper, a British jailed in Iran on spying charges, Tehran Radio has reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said that Kourosh Fouladi asked to meet Cooper to recount his "inhuman experiences in British jails," and to compare this with Cooper's "humane treatment in Iran." Fouladi, who was released last month, alleged he was tortured by prison wardens while he was behind bars in Britain. "When I was released the other prisoners in my cell cried and demanded that Roger Cooper, the British spy, be treated by Iran as we were treated by Britain," the radio quoted Fouladi as saying. He added: "I assured them that the humanitarian Islamic treatment of Roger Cooper would continue," the radio said. Fouladi was granted permission to meet Cooper by Iran's chief justice, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi. Yazdi faced a barrage of criticism in the media and by radical leaders for meeting Lily Cooper, sister-in-law of the jailed Briton. During that meeting, Yazdi remarked that "as a human being I hope that Cooper will be released soon." In an apparent retraction of his earlier comment, Yazdi told Fouladi that in the treatment of prisoners Iran abides by "humane Islamic teachings." "Of course, this does not mean we release murderers or spies," the radio quoted him as adding.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:40 Flying Doctors
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local series
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:15 Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:40 Les Pique Assiettes
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Golden Girls
21:10 The Justice Game
21:30 News in English
22:30 Blue Blood

PRAYER TIMES

06:13 Fajr
06:30 Sunrise (Sunrise) Duhur
11:23 Dhuhur
14:42 Asr
17:18 Maghrib
18:33 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeth Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637385
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773361
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assman International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 771331
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Clouds will appear at different altitudes with a chance of scattered showers. Temperature will rise for the second day running and winds will be northerly light to moderate. In Aqaba,

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 15/28
Aqaba 22/32
Jericho 16/31
Jordan Valley 20/32

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 25.4, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Qader Lala 690408
Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmed 744685
Dr. Ahmad Othman 783384
Dr. Sami Khouri 661735
Firas pharmacy 661912
Forouzan pharmacy 773336
Al Assma pharmacy 670555
Network pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

DRIBD:
Dr. Ziyad Arar (—)

Al Shura'a pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Mustafa Damsa (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 292228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 635800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 681101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Islamic Maternity, J. Am. 642816
Akhil Maternity, J. Am. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 641714
Sheikh Al-Hadi 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhammar Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdull 6662167
Al-Ahli, Abdull 6601646
Italian, Al-Muhammar 7771013
Al-Basrah, J. Amman 7751126
Anny, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Ansal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
DRIBD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Orthodox Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Nafaa Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Sana'a (RJ)
10:30 Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:45 Kuwait (RJ)
11:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:45 Cairo (RJ)
12:00 Baghdad (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Istanbul (RJ)
12:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
12:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Dubai (EK)
10:10 Sana'a (LH)
13:00 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (golden) 420/380
Apple (red) 430/390
Banana 400/330
Banana (Mukhammar) 250/300
Beans 500/450
Cabbage (small) 160/120
Carrot 220/280
Cauliflower 240/200
Corn 170/140
Cucumber (large) 220/180
Cucumber (small) 330/280
Dates 400/350
Eggplant 400/320
Garlic 900/800
Grapefruit 240/200
Grapes 320/300
Grapes (black) 320/300
Guava 400/350
Lemon 200/160
Mallow 140/100
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 260/200
Onion (dry) 320/450
Onion (wet) 260/220
Pepper (hot) 150/120
Pepper (sweet) 120/100
Pomegranate 320/280
Potato 300/250
Spinach 270/220
Sweet Melon

ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

Ministry of the Interior.....
Constituency.....
Application number.....

His Excellency the governor of.....

I hereby submit two copies of my candidacy registration form for membership in the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament representing.....constituency.....seat, enclosing, as outlined below, official papers which prove that I do not carry any other nationality or enjoy foreign protection, I do not enjoy financial benefits from any government department barring land and building rent contracts and I do not belong to any illegal (political) organisation.

Name..... Religion.....
Place of birth..... Area of residence.....

Official documents:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Date.....

And thus the race for elections begins.....

Candidates are meeting with voters everywhere. The discussions are heated, and the topics centre around the ability of each candidate to stand up for his views on any subject under the sun.

Candidates insist that calm should prevail over issues which deal with "possible corruption." The public agrees that what they need is "a strong calm hand."

One candidate told his friends that if all 100 million Arabs carried white flags and walked to Jerusalem "Israel will not give us a grain of sand."

The only predictable outcome of the election meetings in the coming month for those interested in attending as many meetings as possible, is more and more fat cells to deal with after the intense sessions of kasha (Arab sweet) eating.

(Beware of the "samneh")

But then if one insists that they do not want to get fat and will stick to coffee or tea then the outcome is a severe case of insomnia.

Out of the conviction that personal recognition is a determining factor in the elections, some candidates are providing voters with cards that carry their pictures... in colour, no less.

Awareness is quickly rising as to the logo of the elections. The problem is that candidates are depending on the voters' "awareness to elect the right candidate" and the voters are depending on candidates' "awareness to deal with national issues with responsibility."

A signature collecting campaign among candidates is underway to ask for a review of election campaigns advertising costs in local newspapers. The letter has not yet found its way to the officials in charge.

A lone middle-aged lady who no one recognised arrived at a candidate's meeting and announced that she has decided to nominate herself as a candidate because "I want to be one of the sacrificing candidates" now that women were allowed to vote and run in the national elections.

One candidate at a public debate in the capital said his platform included 43 demands which he publicly announced would commit him to achieving during his four years in parliament.

Another confident candidate at a similar public debate promised that men will get equal rights with women, and he was "not joking," either.

An enthusiastic and well spoken candidate insisted that he was progressive in his thinking, but invited women voters to meet with his mother who chairs Islamic religion meetings for women.

The candidate claiming to represent the "youth" roams the streets looking for his "constituency."

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SHARIF ZEID VISITS ARMY HQ: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday visited the armed forces headquarters and discussed with Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb matters of interest to the Armed Forces. (Petra)

BADRAN RECEIVES JAPANESE ENVOY: Minister of Education Dr. Adnan Badran Sunday received Japanese Ambassador Makoto Watanabe at the conclusion of his tour of duty. The discussions dealt with cultural and educational relations between the two countries. (Petra)

SAKET, AUSTRALIAN ENVOY HOLD TALKS: Minister of Agriculture Bassam Saket Sunday discussed with Australian Ambassador to Jordan Graham Bowker means to bolster bilateral cooperation. (Petra)

VOTER CARDS IN KARAK: Karak Governor Ismail Al Zaben called on the 67,563 voters in the governorate to call at the polling committees to collect their voter cards. (Petra)

NEW TENDERS FOR SERVICE PROJECTS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Youssef Hamdan has agreed to offer a number of tenders for the execution of service projects at the cost of JD 146,000. The projects include opening and asphaltting a number of roads in Zarqa, Karak Governorates as well as Jerash and Ajloun district. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of watercolours on Jordan by Salam Kanaan at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of Islamic scripts at Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ An exhibition marking the 1st centennial of the Eiffel Tower displaying photographs, drawings and pictures demonstrating the tower in all its aspects at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist "Omar Boudi at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Multiple Regards" displaying photographs of Picasso, Miro, Braque, Cezanne and Le Corbusier, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

Organ donation — a new life for others

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Giving does not stop when life comes to an end, people can still benefit others even after they die. Donating body organs is widely considered a noble and humane gesture and though the deceased may not be present to receive words of thanks, the gratitude is awesome.

For the very first time in Jordan, the parents of a youth aged 17, who died in a car accident, donated his corneas in addition to other parts of his body.

"This is the first time ever in Jordan that corneas are donated, and in the transplants we used to perform the corneas were all imported," Dr. Ibrahim Ayesh, head of the eye department at the King Hussein Medical Centre, said.

In Jordan, according to Ayesh, people only donate hidden organs like the heart and kidneys, "that is because people are highly emotional, and they mistakenly tend to think we remove the whole eye, while in fact we remove only the corneas and replace it with a plastic one," he explained.

Corneas are imported to Jordan, from the United States, Denmark, Switzerland and other European countries. During the past few months, doctors faced extreme difficulties in getting them as there was a shortage of these tissues all over the world.

"So eye banks in Europe and the states encouraged developed countries to get their own corneas, because local tissues are of better

quality," Ayesh said, adding that "the cultural media in which the cornea is kept, affects the viability of the graft."

The Eye Bank Friends' Society, has been trying to convince people to donate their corneas. "After people heard about this noble gesture, we have over 1,000 donors on paper," Ayesh said.

In his death, Khaled Suhbi Hassan, gave life a new meaning to both Khawla Shamsayeh, 22, and Ramadan Ahmad 14.

"I was desperate, and gave up hope of ever getting back my eyesight. I cannot find the words to describe what I felt when the bandage was removed and I was able to see. I am so thrilled," Khawla said.

Until the day of the operation, Ramadan had to be dragged to school. "He did not like it because he could not see a thing, one of his eyes was blind and the other is very weak," his father said.

Squatted on his hospital bed, Ramadan enthusiastically talked about going back to school. "Now I can play football with my friends," he exclaimed.

His father decided to donate every organ in his body that can save other people's lives. "Frankly, I never thought about this, but this incident made me realise how vital it is for us to help others, so I immediately went and signed the donation forms," he said.

Khawla too has also decided to donate parts of her body after her death. "It may be hard for others to understand, but it sure makes me feel good to know that other lives will be saved," she said.

Royal Decree approves new engineers association body

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued, endorsing an amendment to the engineering offices and companies regulation, under which a new body will be set up at the Jordan Engineers Association to deal with such offices.

The association president, Laith Shbeilat, said Sunday that the new body will play a major role in organising and upgrading consulting work.

At a press conference held Sunday at the Professional Asso-

ciations Complex, Shbeilat said by setting up such a new body, the association will be the first Arab engineering party that has been able to cope with the new Arab organisation, called for and advocated by the Arab Engineers Union.

The union has called for establishing an Arab consulting complex with Amman as its headquarters and has encouraged the establishment of such local bodies in various Arab countries.

Shbeilat said that new body will

be entrusted with organising consulting work under the umbrella of the association's council. He noted that the council has adopted a policy whereby it will not interfere in the activities of the new bodies.

With the establishment of this body, which will maintain close cooperation with the Jordan Contracting Association, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Central Tenders Department, the responsibility will be shared Shbeilat noted.

Violin and piano duo offers a helping hand to conservatory

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When the American Ambassador to Jordan introduced the violin and piano duo Kathleen Winkler and Deborah Berman as artistic ambassadors to Jordan, the comment was taken lightly. When the performance was over, the audience agreed that this was an event that witnessed to the elevated standards to which American performers have acceded. The duo are, in fact, winners of The Artistic Ambassador Programme, held at the Library of Congress on Dec. 11, 1986. 186 music schools throughout the United States having graduate degrees in performance were invited to nominate one or two duos. It was a strenuous competition held among 50 nominated duos where the jurors were looking for: "musicianship, communication and flair." The winners were launched by the Ford Foundation into a series of concerts held at the J.F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts. They were then sent as cultural emissaries for six-to-eight-week concert tours overseas.

We have had the good fortune to receive them here, in Jordan, since they are as much concerned with music education as with performing.

Winkler explained it this way: "One must really want to teach, to be able to do it. Some want to really perform and not care about educating children. Somewhere down the line I made the decision to teach, but I could not stop performing. Educating is, for me, a 65 per cent commitment."

They are here primarily to give a music workshop at the conservatory and for the military band. "It is important for the kids to hear someone better than they play," explained Ms. Winkler, "they will profit."

It was interesting to see them listen intently to Mr. Kifah Fakhoury who filled them in with details on our youthful Music Conservatory.

Miss Berman, dean of Music at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Dance then explained about the refurbishing of her own school programme, "we have come a long way from what it was before, and still have a long way to go," she explained. "We teach, 1,700 students of all ages, even adults. We teach all the instruments using the ORFF programme especially to young children. We have eight groups of chamber music, string quartets, piano duos, music appreciation programmes, note reading, etc. We use other methods such as the



Deborah Berman and Kathleen Winkler

Suzuki method (for violin, cello and flute) that we develop according to the needs of the students."

In concert at the residence of the U.S. ambassador, the duo showed their talent by playing the following repertoire: Debussy's Sonata for Violin and Piano, where long romantic intonations swell into a crescendo of ravishing rhythms and where the individuality of each instrument is thrown into relief and their harmony grafted back smoothly in the manner typical of the impressionists, his contemporaries. Serenata Espagnola of Chaminade-Kreisler, a short serenade that started with repetitious melody and ended in sharp whistle of the violin.

La Gitana, another Spanish gypsy song by Kreisler, opened up with exotic orientalism and moved on to Spanish rhythms. Three Preludes of Gershwin (could an American ever resist performing Gershwin?). Completely warmed up, Kathleen Winkler swung out with the deep 'Blues' spirit of the second prelude moving the audience with her deep sentiment. The third prelude which had jazzy rhythms was almost an examination of speed and skill in which both performers scored high.

In response to the encores of

the audience — mainly composed of diplomats, the conservatory family and local musicians and music educators — the duo played Bedrich Smetana's dramatic "From the Homeland."

Without for a moment swerving from their clarity and precision, both young ladies flowed from sad and yearning Bohemian melodies to vivid gypsy tones, on to folk highlights that seemed to appear at intervals, until Smetana's ardent patriotic rhythms overrode them.

The applause of the audience was so enthusiastic that they offered them a bonus performance of Hungarian composer J. Haydn's Hejre Kati, a classical version of gypsy music which Miss Winkler thinks is so good and not performed often enough. As she played it, I could understand the critique of the Detroit News "Miss Winkler projected the kind of innate musicality that can't be taught."

In all, what they played, they performed in perfect harmony. The piano, acting as accompaniment, was played flawlessly and well by Miss Berman, lacking none of the spirited performance of her partner.

We thank these talented ladies for sharing their knowledge and skill with our musicians, young and old.



Queen Zein opens charity bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, Sunday opened a charity bazaar, organised by Mabarrat Um Al Hussein in cooperation with the diplomatic corps accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court.

Proceeds of this bazaar, which was held at Al Hussein Youth City, will benefit the orphanage. The bazaar includes handicrafts, embroideries, traditional crafts, ceramics, artificial flowers, silver and copper-ware, traditional industries and foods.

The orphanage's secretary, Ihsan Al Zein,

addressed the opening ceremony and voiced appreciation for the Queen's patronage and her support of the orphaned children.

She thanked the diplomatic corps in Jordan for their participation in the bazaar and for their continued support to the children of the orphanage.

The opening ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Taghrid and Princess Alia Al Faisal, Sharifa Fatima Naser and wives of members of the diplomatic corps in Amman.



Iraqi justice minister ends visit

AMMAN — Iraqi Justice Minister Akram Abdul Qader Ali left Amman Sunday at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan, during which he delivered a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to His Majesty King Hussein and met with his Jordanian counterpart Rakeb Al Wazani. Wazani said King Hussein has requested the Iraqi minister to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Hussein. In a departure statement, Ali praised the close cooperation among ministers of justice in the four Arab Cooperation Council states — Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt.

He noted that the four justice ministers, during their recent meeting in Baghdad, have been able to take a number of decisions and to make recommendations capable of bolstering inter-ACC cooperation in the areas of jurisprudence, justice and Islamic law. He added that the four ministers also reached agreements on issues pertaining to unifying legislations, laws and regulations among the four countries. The ACC states are now in the process of implementing such recommendations and decisions, which constitute a basis for Arab unity (Petra photo)

Jordan prepares to celebrate Prophet's birthday anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — Preparations are currently underway in the various parts of the Kingdom to celebrate the Prophet's birthday which falls on Thursday, Oct. 12.

For this purpose the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has drawn up a special programme for the major celebration to be held at Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture next Wednesday.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, Chairman of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs Akram Zua'ir, the Mufti of Jordan Izzuddin Al Khatib and the Armed Forces Mufti Sheikh Nooh Sulaiman will speak during the ceremonies.

The celebration will include, planting trees, holding an Islamic book exhibition and Quranic and cultural contests as well as open-

ing of a number of new mosques and Islamic centres.

Major celebrations will be held in Karak town and Rabbeh, in addition to other celebrations in the various mosques of the governorate.

In Madaba the occasion will be celebrated Monday. The major event will be held at Madaba

Western Mosque, according to Madaba District Governor Musleh Al Tarawneh.

The celebration will include speeches highlighting the importance of this occasion and its effects on the Arab and Islamic history, scouring marches and visits to Madaba Hospital and the centre for the handicapped.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Public Works And Housing Government Tenders Directorate Zarqa Wastewater Project Contracts 73/89/Central and 74/89 Central

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the European Investment Bank towards the cost of the Zarqa Wastewater I project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation to tender is issued.

The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Government Tenders Directorate, invites experienced firms of contractors from member states of the European Economic Community, Switzerland, Austria, Japan or the United States of America and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who have been qualified as First Class Water and Sewerage Contractors by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Jordan, to submit bids for the supply, construction and completion of the following tenders:

1. 73/89/Central Al Hashemite Sewerage Project
2. 74/89/Central Al Zawahreh Sewerage Project

Tenders are due not later than 13:30, Jordan local time, Saturday Nov. 11, 1989, at the Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Tender documents may be examined and purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the Tenders Division of the Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan, Telex 22439 WAJ JO, Fax 679143, and the payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 100 for each set of the tender documents.

No more than one contract will be awarded to any one bidder.

Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee
Director/Government Tenders Directorate
Eng. Salem Kudah.

Jordan Times

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New era for Jordan

IN ESSENCE, His Majesty King Hussein's speech to the country Saturday ushered in the beginning of a new era in the Kingdom's modern history. When the King spoke about Jordan entering a new stage with the Nov. 8 national elections, he obviously had in mind a new beginning that goes beyond the elections as important as they are. In fact, His Majesty reminded his people that elections per se are just part and parcel of a comprehensive new period that encompasses domestic, regional and international events and developments. To paraphrase His Majesty's words the projected elections must be viewed in proper perspective and as the culmination of many factors and circumstances commencing with Amman's historic 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative relations with the West Bank that offered the first opportunity since the 1967 war to reactivate parliamentary life on the basis of periodic national elections as called for by the Constitution.

Having reached this new stage, Jordanians are called upon to seize the opportunity to make parliamentary life workable by making it a truly national forum for policy-making. It will be noted that His Majesty has called on the new parliamentarians to bear their solemn individual and collective responsibilities in addressing all sorts of national, regional and international issues. Henceforth, the King proclaimed, the representatives of the Jordanians in parliament will share in elaborating the policies of the Kingdom on all matters and assist in their implementation. As the issues confronting the country are now so complex and awesome they clearly require institutionalised deliberations and analysis. In turn, our future parliamentarians are called upon to exercise their duties and function with reason, moderation and pragmatism. Otherwise, the entire democratisation process would suffer and the advancements registered already in that direction could be reversed. Above all, voters and candidates in the national elections must be wary of sectarianism and factionalism lest they willily lead the country to a situation similar in scope and dimension to that which so tragically exists in Lebanon. Religion must therefore be put to the service of the country and not to divide it. That is an added reason why Jordanians look forward to the day when the Kingdom's election law will erase forever any references to religious or ethnic criteria from its provisions.

In more ways than one, His Majesty King Hussein's address to the nation Saturday contains the basic elements of a national charter that should guide the course during the new chapter in the Kingdom's development. It needs to be studied and examined thoroughly before attempting to comment on it in depth. One can be sure that its contents would give readers and observers much food for thought for a long time to come. Its careful reading in these critical days that precede the next national elections must therefore be regarded as mandatory for all members of the Jordanian family.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

King Hussein's nationwide address Saturday captured the editorials in Sunday's Arabic daily papers.

The Al Ra'i daily said that Jordan now stands on the threshold of a new stage and a democratic process which will shape the country's future. The King dwelt on all aspects related to the coming stage pointing out the important issues to which attention should be given, and underlining the aspirations of the nation and the Jordanian citizens, the paper said. King Hussein has urged voters to opt for candidates who can assume serious responsibility and serve their nation with all their power, the paper added. It said that the King's address shed light on parliamentary life in the Kingdom over the past four decades and also warned against extremism which, it said, deepens differences and distorts the true image of religion and morals. Resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan, brings with it more hopes and places the Jordanian citizens face to face with new responsibilities, the paper added. It said that the new stage calls for vigilance and awareness, and the coming parliament, as King Hussein said, should serve as a forum for all people keen on serving the higher national interests.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily assails the United States for its biased stand and its voting at the latest United Nations General Assembly session following a debate on the occupied Arab lands. Mahmoud Rimawi notes that with its opposition to the assembly's resolution which was supported by all nations except Israel and the United States, the American administration is thus rejecting any consideration to the Palestinian people's rights. The writer describes Washington's attitude as eccentric and conflicting with the will and the decision of the world community. He says that the United States has thus condoned barbaric actions committed by Israel against the defenceless people of Palestine who are trying to regain their rights and their freedom. Rimawi says Washington has not provided any answer to its inability to take steps to help the Palestinians in their legitimate endeavours but has on the contrary paved the ground for further Israeli atrocities.

Al Dustour daily said that King Hussein has urged his countrymen to be ready for the coming stage, and parliamentary life in the Kingdom by electing only those candidates who are worthy of confidence. The paper recalled that parliamentary life is being resumed for loving major events in the region which saw the creation of a national consultative council, the absence of elections and economic and political events over the past two decades. It said that now that the Kingdom has severed ties with the West Bank the atmosphere is very convenient for holding elections in Jordan and for taking the country into a new stage of hard work within the framework of the constitution. But King Hussein, said the paper, has warned that the coming stage will not provide a forum for mere political statements, but rather serious and hard work for solving the numerous problems facing the Kingdom.

Palestinians make their own points

On Friday Oct. 6, the Israeli cabinet rejected President Hosni Mubarak's 10-point proposal for Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The following article, reprinted from The Jerusalem Post, appeared in the newspaper Friday morning.

By Joel Greenberg

A RHYMING chant shouted by demonstrators this week in Nablus bore an unmistakable and ominous message: *Abu Ammar, a-sabr rah, sha abak tha'er, bido slah*. In English: "Abu Ammar (Yasser Arafat's nom de guerre), patience has run out, your people are revolting, and want weapons."

Residents reported an angry and ugly mood among street activists in the town. They are frustrated by the escalating violence and killings in the city, with no hope of a political solution in sight.

In one incident reported this week in the casbah, shots were fired at soldiers, apparently by youths on the wanted list who had been surprised by the troops.

The atmosphere of increasing despair and frustration coincided with the laborious and protracted political manoeuvring around the latest Egyptian proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo. The lack of immediate progress in these contacts, coupled with the ferment on the ground, demanded a response from the amorphous "leadership" charting the course of the uprising in underground leaflets.

The response came this week in the form of a special communique published by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, and in a well-orchestrated public relations campaign by East Jerusalem activists to focus attention on the situation in the town of Beit Sahur, where the Civil Administration has launched an unprecedented crackdown to break a tax revolt.

The aim of the communique seemed to be to give new impetus to the uprising and to set new goals for the restless street activists while steering their demands for immediate action in ways which would avoid worse explosions of violence.

The direction chosen was non-violent civil disobedience. Using the Beit Sahur tax revolt as a rallying point, and citing the resistance in the Gaza Strip to distribution of magnetic cards for travel to Israel, the Unified Leadership called for a new phase of civil disobedience, urging Palestinians to "escalate the struggle" and "create a new state of rebellion."

The communique called for a five day general strike, extending into next week, and ordered a series of non-violent protests on strike days: taking to the streets en masse every evening; shouting slogans from rooftops "so our loud voice will be heard round the world"; blocking off towns, villages and refugee camps to troops and raising Palestinian flags.

As for the resistance to the magnetic cards, the leaflet termed it "a battle of confrontation waged by the masses of our people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, wherever they may be. Victory in this battle is inevitable."

In stark contrast to the standard numbered leaflets of the Unified Leadership, the special communique was devoid of any call for violence against Israelis or Palestinian "collaborators."

At the same time, key activists in East Jerusalem intensified their efforts to focus media attention

on the situation in Beit Sahur. Arab Studies Society head Faisal Hussein and other prominent figures organised a press conference on the tax crackdown earlier this week. The event drew even more attention when it was blocked by a military closure order, unprecedented in the heart of East Jerusalem, sealing off the planned site of the conference.

Speaking to reporters at the scene, Hussein vowed that Palestinians would continue their struggle in solidarity with Beit Sahur, and he predicted increased protest action next week, while ruling out a transition to armed struggle.

Hussein's comments coincided neatly with the release of the special communique, with its calls for escalated but non-violent protest. The leaflet, which was easily available in East Jerusalem but failed to reach Nablus and Gaza, seemed to bear the imprint of the Palestinian intellectuals in Jerusalem, who have persistently sought to portray the uprising as a "white revolution." They have tried to steer it to non-violent channels of civil disobedience, while astutely using the media to gain public support in Israel and abroad.

Some Israeli observers linked the call for further escalation to the intensifying diplomatic activity around Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's 10-point plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks. According to these analysts, the leaflet-writers were anxious to heat up the situation in the territories in order to increase pressure on Israel and push for diplomatic movement.

Palestinian analysts, for their part, have speculated that the past month's heavy clashes and killings in Nablus, the tax crackdown on Beit Sahur and the magnetic card programme in the Gaza

Strip are part of a calculated Israeli effort to increase pressure on the Palestinians to accept Israel's election proposals and agree to talks on the basis of the government's peace initiative. While neither "conspiracy theory" can be proved, it is clear that the flurry of diplomatic activity has been accompanied by an atmosphere of escalation on the ground. While prominent Palestinians are warning of further deterioration if no breakthrough is achieved, they are not rushing to accept Mubarak's 10 points.

The spectrum of local Palestinian response to the Egyptian initiative can be defined according to one of its extremes: the total rejection of the 10 points by backers of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

An article published this week in *Venus*, a Nazareth-based political weekly, succinctly summarised the reasons for the rejection of the plan by Palestinian radicals. The article was written by Nabil Joulani, a Palestinian considered to be a PFLP supporter, and was entitled, "A Distorted Copy of the Shamir Plan." "The problem of the Palestinian people is not an issue of holding or not holding elections," Joulani wrote, "but rather the problem of a people and its full rights, an existential issue, no less... An existential struggle between the Arab Palestinian people and an Israeli entity and colonial occupation."

The Egyptian initiative is inadequate, according to Joulani, for the following reasons:

— It does not lead to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

— It does not confirm the convening of an international peace conference.

— It neglects any mention of the PLO, and its sole representa-

tion of the Palestinian people. — It ignores the right of return, the right of self determination and establishment of an independent state.

Said a left-wing activist this week: "I don't need Egypt's 10 points, or Israel's four points. I need one point: recognition of the Palestinians as a people with legitimate national rights, that's all. Otherwise, what is there to talk about?"

The rest — and the majority — of Palestinian opinion in the occupied territories can be charted according to its distance from this extreme stance. Supporters of the Palestine Communist Party and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine have voiced varying degrees of dissatisfaction with the Egyptian plan, citing the points mentioned above, though they are more open to considering the plan if it undergoes modifications.

Supporters of the mainstream Fatah group in the PLO have the least negative response to the Egyptian plan, though they too describe it as incomplete. While some are willing to accept the proposal as a basis for an invitation to talks with Israel, there is little readiness to accept suggestions that the 10 points serve as the initial Palestinian platform in the discussions.

Activist Faisal Hussein said this week that the Egyptian plan is "not enough," and fails to address the issues of self-determination, PLO participation and Palestinian national rights. Instead, he argued, the proposals speak vaguely of Palestinian "political rights." The idea that the Palestinian negotiating team would be chosen in consultations between Egypt, the U.S. and Israel was totally unacceptable, Hussein said.

"Now the ball is in the Israeli court," says Abu Ayyash. "Evidently an answer could lead to more escalation."

The 10 points were made even more unpalatable to PLO supporters this week following Egyptian and American statements that the plan is in fact a mechanism for implementing Prime Minister Shamir's election plan, which has been rejected outright by the Palestinians.

Radwan Abu Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association, has been mentioned as a possible participant in the Palestinian negotiating team, and was recently in Cairo. Aligned with the PLO mainstream, he says that though the Egyptian plan lacks mention of the self-determination and the final status of the territories, it could serve to move matters along and "generate new ideas" which will lead to discussion of more substantial issues.

He seems ready to accept the Egyptian proposals as a starting point for talks, provided they are accompanied by a clear timetable outlining substantive discussions that go beyond elections in the territories, and deal with terms of an overall settlement.

Abu Ayyash has no doubt that any Palestinian team will act in full coordination and consultation with the PLO, "otherwise its word would have no credibility."

In any event, Abu Ayyash says, the PLO is withholding a clear-cut answer to Mubarak's ten points, pending an Israeli response. If the PLO goes ahead and rejects the idea, he says, it will provide Prime Minister Shamir with an excuse to reject it as well. If the PLO accepts the plan, its agreement could provide Shamir with a pretext for rejecting the scheme on the grounds that it is endorsed by Israel's "terrorist" enemy.

"Now the ball is in the Israeli court," says Abu Ayyash. "Evidently an answer could lead to more escalation."

The reorientation of Taiwanese economy

By Kuo-Shu Liang

TAIWAN'S economic success began in the early 1960s, as outward-looking policies for industry and trade played essential roles in the rapid growth and remarkable structural transformation of the economy. The swift expansion of labour-intensive manufactured exports contributed to efficient industrialisation, by permitting specialisation according to comparative advantage and stimulating technological improvement. Living standards improved, as did income distribution, through the creation of productive employment and rapid increases in real wage rates. In the 1970s, however, two oil crises, and rising trade barriers and real wage rates threatened Taiwan's ability to compete with new exporters of labour-intensive products.

The economy of Taiwan is currently grappling with a huge trade imbalance with the United States and a rapid appreciation of the new Taiwan dollar. Taiwan

exported 38.7 per cent of its total exports to the United States, and its trade surplus amounted to \$10.4 billion (excluding \$2.88 billion monetary gold imports) in 1988. Dependent on the U.S. market and without retaliatory leverage, Taiwan is a likely target of U.S. protectionist measures, although the trade surplus with the United States shrank 35 per cent in 1988 as against 1987. In addition, in the period between the Group of Five (G-5) meeting in New York in September 1985 and December 1988 the Taiwan dollar appreciated 43.7 per cent against the U.S. dollar. This development has affected considerably the economic performance of Taiwan.

In addition, due to the acceleration of the political democratisation process, the rising costs of environmental pollution and the poverty of public services and welfare can no longer be ignored. The government must restructure its policy to give greater priority to pollution control, consumer

protection, and social welfare improvement.

Despite these difficulties, the economy of Taiwan remains fundamentally sound, having grown at a 7.33 per cent clip in 1988. Policymakers presently find themselves at the crossroads, with many of the current structural problems being basically the result of the past successes. Restructuring the economy and maintaining a high rate of economic expansion will depend to a great extent on expanding domestic demand, diversifying export markets and revising mercantilist trade policies. The future lies in liberalising imports and foreign exchange control, reforming the financial system, expanding technology transfers, and assuming greater responsibility for preserving an open world trading system.

Expansion of domestic demand

The success of outward-oriented industrialisation has created a growing

export surplus, which has expanded substantially in recent years (although the export surplus as percentage of GNP declined from 20.0 per cent in 1986 to 10.4 per cent in 1988). The size of Taiwan's foreign exchange holdings has become remarkably high by any standards, with foreign reserves held by the Central Bank amounting to seventeen months of imports in 1988.

An export surplus represents more domestic savings than domestic investment or a positive net foreign investment, which is unusual for a newly industrialising country in need of substantial infrastructure construction. Actually, Taiwan exports its savings in very large amounts to the United States to help finance the U.S. budget deficit, despite the continuing trade dispute.

The government and the people have become aware that a mercantilist trade policy, with its tight foreign exchange control and subsequent massive buildup of foreign exchange reserves, could cause serious trade friction. Even so, the factors that have caused the trade imbalance are many. Taiwan, for example, has transferred huge domestic savings abroad mainly because of a weak domestic demand.

The Detailed Action Plan for Strengthening Economic and Trade Ties formulated by the Council for Economic Planning and Development in March 1989 aims clearly at expanding domestic demand and achieving a significant reduction in the trade surplus. The government has adopted an expansionary fiscal policy through major investment projects in economic and social infrastructure. Special emphasis has been placed on transportation infrastructure, environmental protection, pollution control, and medical care to improve the quality of life. The government encourages private investment in these areas whenever possible.

Trade policy liberalisation

Taiwan is revising its previous mercantilist trade policy. Although the country has gained a great deal from external trade, if domestic markets are not open for imports, the Taiwan will be vulnerable to charges of "unfair trade." Import restrictions have been relaxed considerably in recent years, as the government has made 16 wide-ranging tariff cuts since 1971. Among the newly-imported commodities, U.S. products as wine and beer have already secured an expanding market share in Taiwan. Taiwan's imports of passenger cars and aeroplanes increased by as much as 2.8 times as compared with those in 1987. Passenger car imports from the U.S. account for 30.4 per cent of total auto imports. Import shares of household laundry equipment and freezers exceed 70 per cent. Moreover, the average rate of effective duty has been brought down to 5.7 per

cent, a level comparable to that of industrial countries.

The Detailed Action Plan seeks to reduce the average rate of effective duty to 3.5 per cent by 1992. The average nominal rate of import duty will be reduced to 7.0 per cent by 1992, down from 12.6 per cent in 1988. It is hoped that the U.S. firms will take full advantage of new trade opportunities created by import liberalisation and the expanding domestic market of the country.

Foreign exchange

Taiwan revised related laws and regulations and lifted most of foreign exchange controls on July 15, 1987. The foreign exchange controls that remain in effect and still need Central Bank approval are confined to non-trade-related inward remittances of more than \$50,000 and outward remittances of more than \$5 million by any individual or firm in a year. The government still restricts capital inflow to control short-term financial speculation. There has been substantial outflow of private capital since early 1988, and overseas mutual funds have now become widely available for public foreign investment through the trust departments of foreign exchange banks.

Taiwan introduced a new exchange rate policy in April 1989. Previously, a daily mid-rate was set according to the weighted average of the previous day's transactions. Bank traders had to buy and sell within 2.25 per cent of the mid-rate. The new guidelines abolish the 2.25 per cent limit,

and a group of nine banks, five regular major foreign exchange banks and four local and foreign banks chosen on a rotation basis, set the range of buying and selling rates that apply to transactions under \$30,000. For trades exceeding \$30,000, rates are negotiated by trading banks with customers. There is a provision for resetting the exchange rate so as to make the exchange rate respond to the course of business during the day. This reform will allow market forces to play a greater role in determining exchange rates. The central bank can reduce the amount of intervention, and adjustments will be made primarily to maintain an orderly market rather than simply to "lean against the wind" and slow down changes in the exchange rate.

Direct foreign investment

Taiwan plans to make better use of its foreign exchange earnings for investment abroad rather than simply accumulating low-yield foreign reserves. Firms manufacturing apparel, plastic shoes, toys and handbags have relocated to lower-cost countries in the Asia-Pacific region, especially Thailand and Malaysia. A growing number have located production or acquired foreign firms in industrial countries, especially in the United States, to avoid trade barriers and obtain new technology. The government does not interfere in trade and investment activities between Taiwan and mainland China if they are handled through third countries.

LETTERS

Putting the records straight

To the Editor:

I WAS astonished to find the article "The Austrian model could be a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," taken from The Jerusalem Post in Oct. 8 issue of the Jordan Times. It is certainly malicious and utterly bad faith to describe Austria as a neutralised country with full sovereignty only existing on paper.

Let me put the records straight: (1) Austria's neutrality was a free and autonomous decision of its parliament after the last allied occupation soldier has left the country. It is true that the Soviet Union had indicated about half a year before that some form of Austrian guarantee against any future "Anschluss" with Germany would pave the way for the withdrawal of its forces from Austria.

(2) Nothing in the Austrian State Treaty, by which the four allied occupation powers restored Austrian liberty, stops Austria

from having a standing army to defend its neutrality. It is true that the above mentioned State Treaty contains clauses forbidding Austria to acquire rockets which were at that time considered an essentially offensive military equipment.

(3) None of the big powers have given guarantees to defend Austria in the case of a military conflict and it may be added that Austria — for evident reasons — did not want any such protection. May I say that the article in question is a most confused concoction of superficiality, something of the "sheer lunacy" (real cheek) mentioned by the author who certainly never had a look on Austria's State Treaty of May 15, 1955, or on Austria's unilateral declaration of neutrality of October 26 of the same year. The latter has since become Austria's National Day.

Ambassador of Austria
Dr. Franz Perceger

Unemployment in Jordan — finding solutions

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Official statistics show that the unemployment rate in Jordan is 9.1 per cent. However, studies carried out by individuals show this rate varying from 13 per cent to as much as 30 per cent. But, whatever the percentage, the government is exerting a lot of effort towards solving this problem. It is creating programmes for the unemployed aimed at rehabilitating professionals of various fields in a move aimed at more compatibility between the needed labour and available cadres in Jordan.

Marwan Dudin, an authority on the subject and ex-minister of labour, believes that the solution for unemployed graduates should be a well-studied plan implemented by the private sector. "The Vocational Training Centre should get more involved in tailored programmes," he said. "In this way, it can find out the areas that need more labour. This would be in addition to its basic duty of taking in unsuccessful 9th and 10th graders to develop their practical skills."

The Ministry of Labour, in conjunction with other organisations, has already commenced training programmes, particularly in textile, health and social welfare areas. "We need some sort of cooperation between the private and public sectors," says Dudin. "For example, a volume of 1,000 people of various degrees could be placed in private organisations or companies. There, they would train for set professions. The first year they would be given pocket money to cover transportation and a meal. The second year they would be assessed by the employer in terms of performance. After the four

years, the trainee's presence would become vital to the company. So, the employer would benefit from such manpower."

Financially, this programme would be costly, but it would take the place of other unnecessary plans that could be cancelled, according to Dudin.

The frozen five-year plan (1986-1990) aimed at finding job opportunities for a good part of Jordan's unemployed labour force. But the plan was shelved because of the economic crisis in the country.

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, political science professor at the University of Jordan, explains: "Some of the reasons for unemployment in Jordan are regional, international, and some are local. On an international level the economic situation in the world is not settled. It is in constant motion with new forces coming up and with others declining. This affects the lives of the Jordanians on the regional and local levels."

"For example, take the recession of petroleum during the last two years in the Gulf countries. It reflected on Jordan in a variety of ways. One, the Gulf countries stopped taking in additional Jordanian manpower. Second, Jordan suffered from the lack of import of its goods. A third regional factor is the Iraq-Iran war. The latter stimulated Jordanian exports, but now that the war is over Iraq no longer needs the goods that Jordan used to produce and sell it. In addition, remittances of Jordanians working abroad have declined. Lastly, the economic aid that used to come from oil-producing countries stopped (except from Saudi Arabia). All these factors have affected Jordan's local economy. The Jordanian developmental efforts commenced in the early

70s. Since then, the economy has not been managed prudently and wisely. Jordanians became complacent thinking that if the problem was ignored it would go away. Society was living beyond its means whilst the country was suffering from a loss of income."

Agriculture

A definite lack of labourers is to be found in agriculture. Asians are the people mostly working in this area. They usually accept smaller wages since they do not have many responsibilities to deal with when compared with Jordanians, experts say.

A Jordanian does not accept to work in agriculture because it is not profitable for him to do so. He needs a salary that will cover all of his expenses: rent, food, electricity, and his children's school fees. He demands higher wages.

"But employers believe in the supply and demand law whereby it is the market that decides the wages of employees," Dudin says. "An employer will not hesitate to hire 10 people instead of six, and pay the 10 what ought to have been paid to the six."

In theory, this looks nice since it takes care of the unemployed though at a certain cost.

A Jordanian also asks to be respected and not to be treated in a degrading manner. A lot of the foreign hands have to put up with a lot of abuse from their employers, experts point out. For one thing, if an employee is working without a permit, he is scared that his boss will tell the authorities on him. "So he has to put up with a lot of insults and shouting, and just swallow his pride," said a labour expert. "He is also worried of losing his job. It is almost impossible for him to find a well-paying job in his own country,

and he cannot afford to lose his employment in a foreign country," added the expert.

Ahmad Qasem, a member of the Executive Committee for the General Union of the Labour Unions, has conducted a research on unemployment based on a comparative study of official statistics. He bases his theories and conclusions on the fact that unemployment is the presence of a number of physically able citizens who search for jobs but cannot find any opportunities.

This phenomenon could be attributed to insufficient qualifications, incompatibility of qualifications and needed skills and more profitability for the employer in cheap foreign labour. Qasem thinks that one of the reasons for the unemployment problem is connected to the lack of control on the amount of incoming foreign labourers. "Official statistics indicate that there are 150,000 foreigners with work permits in the country," he points. On the other hand, Dudin rejects the idea that there are available jobs for the number of Jordanians seeking jobs. "The locals do not look for the work opportunities that are available," he says. "This is called behavioural or structural unemployment. It is not because Jordanians do not like to pick tomatoes that they do not work in this field. On the contrary, all Jordanian women in the Jordan Valley are picking tomatoes. It is just that Jordanians do not find it profitable to work in simple agricultural labour. It is wrong and irresponsible to say that by stopping Asians from working in agriculture eventually the Jordanians will replace them," Dudin argues.

Qasem says that "it was only after 1982 that Jordan witnessed

this problem of unemployment." He explains that the Jordanian economy was based on an import/export formula, and not on industry.

Skills and availability of jobs

After 1982, unemployment appeared in the form of a crisis with major aspects. One, is the new graduates who seek jobs for the first time and do not find any work opportunities. Qasem found that these represent 55 per cent of the unemployment figure; 59 per cent of which are holders of community college diplomas, 22 per cent university degrees, and 19 per cent are high-school graduates. These figures exclude the approximately 50,000 students who have studied abroad. In Qasem's opinion, there is an imbalance between education and the country's job demands. "The five year plan indicates that 45 per cent of the graduates find work other than the one they are qualified for. This is a form of unemployment," he says.

A 30-year-old civil engineer faces this sort of unemployment. After graduating from an American university, he came back to Jordan. He was faced with a lot of dismaying rejections from employers. Now, he works as a computer operator. All he does in a day is to print data into the computer. Obviously, his productive energy is not being put to full use. Another 32-year-old civil engineer with a masters degree from England faced unemployment for one and a half years. After many futile attempts at finding work here, he has now decided to move to Saudi Arabia.

Commenting on Jordanians forced to seek jobs outside, Dudin says: "Our economy is private sector economy." We

should always be able to accommodate the private sector people in a manner that makes them continue to invest in the country, to use the money in the country, and not to escape the country."

"Industrial development banks, and all credit organisations are in the country to help special categories of people. An aggressive move should be made within these special organisations towards these aims. The unemployed person himself could be made a work-creator; suppose that five engineers, graduates of the University of Jordan, teamed up and received help from the Industrial Development Bank; they could get special training from the bank since it has a training centre. The capital investment given to these graduates could help them in reaching productive and profitable jobs."

Protection for labour force

Another form of unemployment, according to Qasem, is when labourers lose their jobs and they cannot find other work. He blames the lack of job opportunities on bad organisation and planning. "People started building industrial foundations to supply the needs of Iraq during the Iraq-Iran war. Now that the war is over, these companies are redundant. So, one is left with a large number of jobless people on his hands."

"One's political or religious beliefs can also cause one to be dismissed from work. Over 20,000 people are jobless for such reasons," Qasem says.

Intisar Matar is a psychologist by profession. She could not find work according to her qualifications so she ended up working as a kindergarten teacher. She told the Jordan Times that

she worked at this private school for six years, and then was asked to resign. Her dismissal was related to her "private life and ideas." "When I was doing my job, my private ideas were kept in a separate compartment. I made sure that my personal life never interfered with my professional life," she says.

She hunted jobs for two years until she found a job as a saleswoman. Her job is demanding in that she is on the go for many hours every day, but "work is not something to be ashamed of. If one is earning his money honestly then there is no reason to feel degraded by a certain job."

Qasem also argues that acts 16 and 17 of the labour law permit an employer to fire his employee for any reason no matter how trivial. As a member of the labour union, he says that he witnesses large numbers of dismissed citizens coming daily to the union.

Dudin responds to this by saying that a labourer can refuse to take the compensation given on dismissal. "Through his trade union, a labourer can report this deed to the labour inspector of the area. The latter will try to solve the problem with the trade union representative. They can then decide if it is a labour dispute or not, and if so they can go to court," he explains.

In Jordan insurance against unemployment does not exist. "I do not see how within the economic circumstances of redirecting our way of life, that we can ask the work owners to pay more to the Social Security Corporation," says Dudin. For the employer and employee have to contribute money for the fees of such an insurance. Employees are already complaining of low wages, so this

insurance, at the moment, is not practical."

The Social Security Corporation covers injuries against occupational injuries and offers old age pensions.

Seasonal or temporary unemployment exists mainly in agriculture and construction. Qasem has found that around 40,000 people work in agriculture, and 54,000 in construction. "These figures represent 18 per cent of the work force exposed to total or partial unemployment," he says. He thinks that these two areas are the most exposed to ill-treatment and injustice. "The agricultural sector does not even have a trade union to defend the rights of these workers," he says. "No union exists for these people because of the seasonal nature of the work. Tobacco and lentil harvesting do not need full time labourers. Asians usually come to Jordan for certain seasons, and then go back to their other jobs."

Moreover, the problem of unemployment in Jordan remains a serious issue. It is hoped that by 1993, in the course of correcting the economy, that wages will be raised to a better minimum more suitable to the new demands of life. Unfortunately, at this time unemployment is expected to increase.

"I think we are just at the beginning of the crisis. It is going to be a longer and deeper problem than anyone foresees. We should not have borrowed to the extent that we did. Now, this borrowing has become another burden. Jordanians have lost credibility in their own economy, and the credibility of others in the Jordanian economy. These are significant obstacles that will have to be overcome in the process of recycling the Jordanian economy," says Abu Jaber.

How to live 150 years

By Viviane Sentilac

AN American woman, who died in 1980 at the age of 113 years and 215 days, attributed her long life to the fact of eating stewed apples and to never having been married.

About 5,000 French people today are aged over a hundred. Some of them have always led a sober, regular life. Others have never deprived themselves of wine, tobacco or other pleasures. And countries which are reputed for their large number of hundred-year-olds, such as Ecuador or the upper plateaux of the Caucasians, in the Soviet Union, can offer no rational explanation for this phenomenon. So who can one rely on to clear up the mystery of ageing, of death and therefore of life?

One obvious matter on which doctors and researchers agree is that over-eating or eating wrongly, overindulging in alcohol and smoking are risk factors for cardiovascular disease and cancer, the same as serious vitamin deficiencies have fatal consequences. But it is not enough to maintain a good hygiene of life to slow down the ageing process which begins at the fetus stage. By feeding oneself correctly one simply has better chances of growing old in better health.

"It is as hard to define ageing as to explain what life is," admits Jacques Tretton, a biologist at the Gerontology Unit of INSERM in

Paris. This scientist studies the ageing of the cells in the crystal of the eye and the formation of cataracts (opaqueness of the eye leading to blindness), in order to detect why, from the age of 20, the brain cells stop multiplying and why, between the age of 30 and 40, the capacities of the eyesight fall suddenly independently of the health of the individual.

All our cells are programmed, at the embryo stage, to fulfill precise functions following a general curve. Thus one is able to stand upright around the age of one, to write around the age of one, then one acquires wrinkles, white hair and one sees one's faculties decreasing gradually.

It is the law of nature for all mammals, but not for all vertebrates. Thus, snakes, lizards and crocodiles do the opposite of mammals. The older they are, the bigger they are and the more eggs they lay. They are also sensitive to temperature: if a lizard is exposed to the sun for a long time, its life will be shorter and, conversely, if left in the shade, it will live to a ripe old age. Experiments give no significant results with warm-blooded animals. These however are sensitive to food. Rats put on a diet will have a spectacularly longer lifespan.

Another area of reflection is that whereas a doe-rabbit will have a lot of young and will only live a few years, a whale, or an elephant, will only have a single

descendant, but will live for a very long time. From these examples, should one conclude that human beings should spend their lives in the shade, follow a diet and not have any children in order to live longer?

The American biologist Roy Walford asserts that we already have all we need to live to be 120, on condition we follow a very strict diet, 1,500 to 2,000 calories a day, without sugar, or honey, or alcohol or fat. But that does not provide an answer to the question: does one "wear out" the human machine by using it (even with precautions) or will it break down anyway?

The machine in question is well-built as it is its own mechanic: the cells damaged by ultraviolet rays, chemical products and accidents repair themselves, as can be seen with skin which heals alone. In the long term, repairs take a little longer, but this slow-down is not enough to explain the gradual and then total break-down of the human machine. Ageing would thus not appear to be a simple matter of wear. It would seem to be genetically recorded in our cells.

By growing cells taken from people of different ages, it was noted that the cells taken from a person aged 20 could divide up to 60 times, those from a person aged 40 could divide about 40 times and those from a person aged 60 could only divide about 20 times — French features.



Sun's outbursts make heavenly gift for polar lights researchers

By Doug Mellgren
The Associated Press

TROMSOE, Norway — A geomagnetic storm battering the earth's poles is growing increasingly violent, and northern lights researchers are elated.

The storm, caused by the bombardment of energy from solar activity, is making the shimmering aurora borealis brighter, more colourful and more spectacular than usual this year.

Unni Pia Loevhag, a space researcher, plans to fire bolts of electricity at the ionosphere, the layer of earth's atmosphere that acts like a movie screen for the solar lights, to get an even better picture.

The study should offer insights into the universe, shed light on theories of physics and "increase man's storehouse of knowledge," she said.

Loevhag's work may have practical application in helping to overcome the havoc that the electrically charged lights can play with radio communications and navigation.

In Tromsø, 300 kilometres north of the Arctic circle, the tourism board is thanking its lucky stars for the aurora borealis, which has drawn the curious and adventurous for hundreds of years.

These amazing sheets of light are the offspring of solar winds,

bursts of energised atomic particles that sweep 150 million kilometres through space and slam into earth's magnetic field at a speed of 2.52 million kilometres per hour.

The collision releases the storm of energy seen in the constantly changing lights. Over the South pole they are called the aurora australis.

"It's absolutely the most fantastic thing we have up here in the north," said tourist official Gunn Sissel Jaklin.

"The aurora will just keep getting better and better from now until 1994 because the 11-year solar cycle is moving toward a peak."

Loevhag keeps tabs on the lights summer and winter, even when they are dimmed or hidden by the midnight sun.

"We're already seeing things that I have never witnessed before," Loevhag said of the sun's outbursts. She has studied the lights since 1983.

From her laboratory 30 kilometres from town, the 33-year-old physicist is taking part in European icebreaker scatter radar, or Eiscat, a project launched in 1981 to study the northern lights and the earth's outer atmosphere.

Eiscat's studies are funded by Britain, France, West Germany, Norway, Sweden and Finland. A transmitter fed by five mega-

watts, enough power to light a small village, bounces a radar beam off the ionosphere 50 to 2,000 kilometres above the earth. Signals are picked up in Sweden and Finland and relayed to Tromsø.

"A radar wave is an electromagnetic field. It scatters through the northern lights and we receive a picture of what is going on. When solar activity builds up, it amplifies the lights and makes our studies easier," Loevhag said.

It took eons for mankind to discover that solar flares, tongues of fire that leap thousands of miles above the sun's surface, caused the lights.

The Vikings believed the lights were flashes from the shields of warriors boud for heavenly Valhalla. Eskimos imagined dangerous spirits, while Swedes thought it was the torchlight of Lapps stalking stray reindeer.

Centuries ago, Tromsø's people feared that laughing at the aurora would anger the gods, who would strike them lame. They still take northern lights seriously, coming a festival, businesses, boats and even their newspaper after them.

The University of Tromsø observatory opened in 1911. With 25 researchers "it is a small but significant group in terms of northern lights research," said researcher Norval Bjoernas.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Kuwait draws up scheme for massive petrochemical industry

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf oil producer Kuwait is drawing up plans for a multi-billion-dollar downstream petrochemical industry, 10 years after Saudi Arabia launched a similar project that made it a major world supplier.

Petrochemical industry sources say eight separate plants with a combined cost easily exceeding \$2 billion have now come off Kuwaiti government drawing boards.

When the plants come on-stream — projected in 1994 and 1995 — the private sector will build a second generation of chemical plants to use their feedstocks, they added.

Kuwait sources working on the plan said Kuwait has already approached several international companies to prepare preliminary feasibility studies for potential licensing agreements.

They projected an expanding world petrochemical market for the next 20 years.

But they said that by not starting when Saudi Arabia did in the late 1970s, Kuwait may now face a more difficult task in marketing its petrochemicals.

The Saudis spent around \$10 billion to build 15 plants and two massive industrial cities — Jubail and Yanbu — in the Arabian desert, and captured nearly four per cent of the world market in which demand was at a peak.

The Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) reported a record \$486 million

net profit for the first six months of 1989.

The sources say world demand has begun to fall off, but should pick up again by the mid-1990s.

The Kuwaiti sources said Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa had thrown his weight behind the project, which has yet to be approved by the Kuwaiti cabinet and the Higher Petroleum Council.

"We are in the process of setting up a giant petrochemical project in Kuwait to serve our basic aim of increasing manufacturing and raising the share of Kuwaiti industrial exports," Sheikh Ali said in an interview several weeks ago with Al Rai Al Aam newspaper.

"After finishing the modernisation of refineries in Kuwait we will now move on to the petrochemicals field," he was quoted as saying.

The sources said the plants will use naphtha and natural gas as their feedstocks.

Kuwait's oil refineries produce an abundance of naphtha, but the country would have to either import the gas or increase its petroleum production to obtain more associated gas from its oil fields.

The sources said the new petrochemical complex would likely be located south of Kuwait City between Shuaiba and Abdulla ports.

A polypropylene plant was begun earlier this year at a cost of \$100 million to \$120 million, but is outside the scope of the new project, the sources said.

According to industry sources the projected development would include six plants for non-aromatic product — high density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer and styrene butadiene rubber — and two for aromatics — ortho-xylene and para-xylene.



A major petrochemical plant in Saudi Arabia which lured Kuwait to follow suit.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Oman discovers platinum

NICOSIA (R) — Platinum has been discovered in the mountainous northern region of the Sultanate of Oman, the Omani News Agency has said. "Platinum has been discovered in the northern mountains of the country opening new doors for our mineral industry," the agency quoted the general manager for minerals in the ministry of petroleum and minerals as saying. General Manager Mohammad bin Hussein bin Qassem said "the research is taking place under the direct supervision of the ministry of petroleum and minerals which is going to do a complete survey of the area in the hope of finding commercial quantities of gold and platinum," the agency said.

Malaysian trade surplus shrinks

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia recorded a foreign trade surplus of 4,364 billion ringgits (\$1.623 billion) in the first half of this year, 31.1 per cent lower than the 6,334 billion ringgits (\$2,355 billion) chalked up in the first half of last figures released by the government statistics department have showed. The department said exports rose by 23.0 per cent to 31,856 billion ringgits (\$11,847 billion) in the six months of this year, while imports rose by 40.5 per cent to 27,491 billion ringgits (\$10,223 billion) for the same periods. Imports of machinery and transport equipment, at 12,644 billion ringgits (\$4,702 billion), accounted for 46.0 per cent of all imports. Other major imports were manufactured goods, chemicals, food and miscellaneous manufactured articles. Major exports were oil, rubber, palm oil, timber, cocoa and manufactured items.

Kuwait extends cheap loan to China

PEKING (R) — A Kuwaiti state agency has provided China with a cheap loan to help build a factory producing badly needed iron pipes carrying oil, gas and water, the China Daily has said. It said officials of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development signed the loan, for six million dollars (\$20 million) in Peking with officials of the ministry of foreign economic relations and trade. The money covers one-third of the cost of the factory, which will be built in the northeast province of Liaoning. Production will start at the end of 1991, the newspaper said. The loan will be repaid over 18 years with a four-year grace period. The first payment will be made in April 1993 and the annual interest rate is five per cent, plus 0.5 per cent to cover administrative expenses. Since 1982, the Kuwaiti agency has loaned China a total of \$300 million for projects such as airports, harbours and power stations, the newspaper said.

Portugal's bourses to modernise

LISBON (R) — Portugal's two small bourses in Lisbon and Oporto, seeking to catch up with the rest of Europe, have said they will instal a 800 million escudo (\$4.8 million) unified electronic system by May 1990 to modernise their inefficient trading. Bourse officials said the two will be linked by a new information system that will also allow continuous trading eventually. Officials said they hoped the new system would increase liquidity in the exchanges which are only now showing signs of recovering from the October 1987 world stock markets crash. Some stock market operators had feared that, with the liberalisation of capital movements between Portugal and the rest of the European Community ahead of the creation of a single market in 1992, foreign and domestic investors would take their money elsewhere if the Portuguese bourses did not shape up quickly.

Glaxo reports record profits

LONDON (R) — Britain's Glaxo pharmaceutical group, whose Zantac anti-ulcer drug is a world best-seller, said it had made a record pre-tax profit of £1 billion (\$1.57 billion) in the year to June 30. It said pre-tax profits had jumped 20 per cent over the £832 million (\$1.31 billion) recorded a year earlier. Glaxo chief executive Ernest Mario said the sharp rise in profits had been helped along in two ways. "The exchange rate was very favourable for us, and secondly we had a large increase in our income from investments outside of our business," Mario said on television. He said Zantac, the top selling prescription medicine in the world and the first prescription drug to sell more than £1 billion (\$1.57 billion) in one year, remained a major earner. But he warned that the drug, whose medical name is Ranitidine, faced stiff competition from other brands.

Apple to exhibit in Dubai

AMMAN (J.T.) — During a press conference at the Dubai World Trade Centre last month, the Macworld Middle East was announced to take place in Dubai, within the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition and Conference (Giter) from Oct. 16 to 19, 1989.

22 international exhibitors are joining Macworld Middle East this year, coming from seven countries.

This exhibition, which is an Apple exhibition dedicated to Macintosh and third parties, has been taking place since 1986 in various European and American countries.

This year Macworld Middle East will be launching new products for the first time in the Middle East.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, October 8, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	97.1	98.1
U.S. dollar	622.0	628.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	436.6	441.0
Pound Sterling	999.7	1009.7	Dutch guilder	281.6	284.3
Deutschemark	329.5	332.8	Swedish crown	96.1	97.1
Swiss franc	379.1	382.9	Italian lira (for 100)	45.0	45.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	156.7	158.3

Conference weighs GCC financial role

KUWAIT (AP) — Finance Minister Jasssem Al Khorafi has stressed the need for the Gulf's economic institutions to become more competitive in world financial markets.

"The point at stake is to what extent our local financial institutions are prepared and able to offer their financial services at competitive prices on the local market," he said in an address to about 400 Western and Gulf economists.

Khorafi said that bolstering the competitiveness of Gulf institutions "places huge burdens on the shoulders of the executives. I warn against some fallacies arguing that financial abundance or the pumping of public money is the way for national institutions to enhance their competitiveness," he said.

Khorafi was opening a three-day conference on "globalisation of financial markets and its impact on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries."

It groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. They formed the GCC in 1981 to work toward a common market.

The chairman of the organising committee, Modi Al Homoud, told the Associated Press: "It has become imperative for us to acquaint ourselves with the new trends in world markets and examine their impact on the GCC markets."

Homoud, dean of the faculty of economics at Kuwait University, told the conference: "The open economies of the GCC countries have been vitally affected by developments on the world markets... integrated into the global economy, they cannot escape from changes in monetary policies of the major nations."

Study forecasts shift in female employment

GENEVA (AP) — An International Labour Organisation study has forecast that more than a billion women will be economically active by the year 2000 with a growing majority taking jobs in services and industry.

The 127-page study also says that the North-South gap in prospects for equality of sexes in employment opportunities has widened.

It estimated that in the Third World, the female share of the economically active population was expected to remain at 34 per cent at the dawn of the next century, unchanged since 1950.

In black Africa, the share may even decline from 42 per cent to 37 per cent if present trends continue, the study said.

This compares with a projected rise in the women's share in the

industrialised countries' work force from 37 to 41 per cent during the five decades.

The shift in female employment from agriculture to industry and services was most marked again in the industrialised countries where only eight per cent were still expected to do farm work in 2000 compared with 47 per cent in 1950.

A similar, though less pronounced trend was forecast in the study for women in the Third World whose share in agriculture was projected to decline from 87 to 57 per cent.

By 1980, 58 per cent of the women in industrialised countries were employed in services and about 20 per cent in industry, according to the study. It said that services will absorb an even bigger share by the year 2000.



Jordanian and Saudi officials discuss bilateral relations during the first day of talks opened Sunday (Petra photo).

Jordan, S. Arabia praise ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Mohammed Al Saqqaf and the Saudi under-secretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy for International Economic Cooperation Affairs Usama Jaafar Faqih co-chaired the Joint Jordanian-Saudi Economic Committee meetings which started here Sunday.

Addressing the opening session, Saqqaf voiced gratitude for the Saudi government's positions towards Jordan. Saqqaf pointed out that honourable Saudi stands towards Jordan have been reflected in the financial support it gave to Jordan during the difficult economic situations which affected Jordan recently.

Such support had positive impact on Jordan and helped it overcome the difficult situation, he asserted.

Saqqaf expressed confidence that the meetings will come up with positive and fruitful results, which will serve the interests of both kingdoms.

Faqih reiterated Saudi Arabia's commitment and its interests in developing and strengthening bilateral cooperation with Jordan and noted that the committee's meetings in Amman seek to bolster the brotherly relations existing between the two countries.

Faqih said that the Saudi support to Jordan reflects its pan-Arab duty towards Jordan, with which "we maintain brotherly relations."

He voiced appreciation for the committee's achievements and said that they look forward to further strengthening of benefits.

He referred to the establishment of the Joint Saudi-Jordanian Industrial and Agricultural Investments Company and said that Saudi Arabia has provided all the necessary support for this company to help it achieve its objectives.

He praised Jordan's development experience and said it was the symbol of our pride in the Arab region.

The committee will discuss over three days means of enhancing cooperation in the various fields and will discuss the possibility of co-ordinating a transport agreement.

OAPEC urges deeper look for more oil

ABU DHABI (R) — A leading Arab oil official has urged Arab countries, already sitting on more than 60 per cent of world's reserves, to explore deep formations for more oil.

Abdul Aziz Al Wattari, secretary general of Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), said they should import advanced knowhow to reach depths not yet explored.

"We believe that prospecting in deep formations (in Arab countries) constitutes an essential part of exploration efforts aimed at enhancing future energy resources," he told a seminar on prospects of hunting oil in deep geological layers.

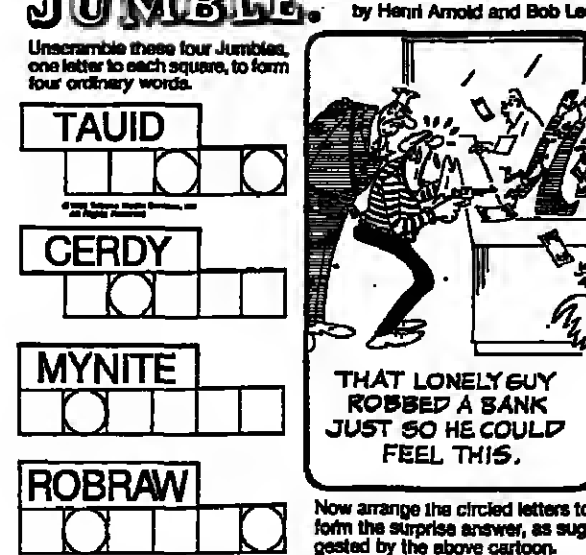
Wattari said oil had been discovered in formations deeper than 6,000 metres in several areas outside the Arab World, adding: "We should not assume that deeper formations bear only gas."

Delegates to the seminar in Abu Dhabi said Arab countries produced oil from formations which were on average less than 3,000 metres down.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



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(Answers tomorrow)

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Welsh cut links with S. Africa

LONDON (AP) — Anti-apartheid leaders hailed the Welsh Rugby Union's (WRU) vote to cut playing ties with South Africa as another step toward the sporting isolation of that nation and said Saturday they will push England to take a similar step.

The Welsh Rugby Union became the first rugby group to sever links with South Africa and its apartheid policy of racial separation. Delegates from the 205-member clubs approved a resolution by more than a 2-1 margin Friday night in Port Talbot, Wales.

The 276-113 vote reversed a decision of five years ago to continue links with South Africa and came two months after Welsh participation in a tour celebrating the centennial of South African rugby split the Welsh Rugby Union.

The resolution said Welsh clubs would not participate in matches organized by the South African rugby board "for as long as any rugby player living in the Republic of South Africa is the victim of racial discrimination under the laws of that country."

The Welsh Rugby Union had decided in 1984 to maintain South African links by a vote of 362-60, but this summer's tour led to resignations at the WRU and threats by sponsors and local governments in Wales that they would cut off funding for rugby.

"The clubs have looked at the situation and decided it was time to change," said WRU president Clive Rowlands, who resigned for seven days in the aftermath of the summer tour. "It's all right to build bridges with South Africa, but if bridges are falling down in Wales something must be done about it."

Anti-apartheid Leader Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the South African non-racial Olympic committee, welcomed the WRU vote and said it "will help further the

isolation of South Africa."

"Now our next step is to influence all the other rugby unions to take similar actions," Ramsamy said. "Now the focus will be on England."

Players from England, France, Scotland, Ireland and Australia also participated in this summer's tour of South Africa.

Mike Terry, secretary of the anti-apartheid movement, hailed the Welsh vote as "wise, courageous and historic" and called for similar action by rugby unions in England and Scotland.

"This is a decision we have

been campaigning for over the last two decades," Terry said.

Neil Kimock, leader of England's opposition Labour Party, also expressed his pleasure at the vote but pointed out that the WRU does not have the power to stop visits by individual players to South Africa and called on players to shun that nation.

"Players must surely understand that their rights of freedom also carry responsibilities of freedom and that means that they should not give aid and comfort to apartheid by playing in South Africa," Kimock said.

Karpov maintains lead

LONDON (AP) — Anatoly Karpov agreed to a 43-move draw with fellow Soviet Artur Yusupov in the fourth round of the world chess championship candidates' semifinal Saturday and moved into a 2.5-1.5 lead.

In the other semifinal, Jon Speelman of England and Jan Timman of the Netherlands adjourned after a gruelling six-hour round.

Speelman, playing white, sealed his 64th move in a well-known endgame position with few pieces, which experts said is likely to end in a draw.

But Speelman maintains the material advantage of a bishop for a pawn and he has the option to test Timman's defensive technique over several playing sessions.

"Speelman should keep playing. This is the first game where he's in the ascendancy," said Andrew Martin, a British international master.

After three games, Timman leads 2-1.

The winner of the candidates' cycle will challenge world champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union for his title in a 24-game contest beginning October 1990. The winners of the eight-game semifinals will face off in the

candidates' final next March.

A win scores a point and a draw a half.

Playing with the advantage of white, Karpov's cautious play enabled Yusupov to equalize shortly after the opening and even gain a small edge in the resulting endgame.

With only three minutes thinking time left for 12 moves, Karpov defended easily and when he launched a brief counterattack, Yusupov forced a draw on the 43rd move.

Although Karpov retains his lead in the contest, many experts have been surprised by lacklustre performance in the first half of the contest.

"Karpov played very insipidly," said British international master David Norwood.

Karpov, 38, held the world title for 10 years until he lost to Kasparov in 1985 and he was widely expected to wipe out Yusupov in the match.

Yusupov held dangerous initiatives in the second and third games, but a horrendous blunder in the third let Karpov seize the lead.

"I feel sorry for Yusupov. He's playing like a hero, but he's behind in the match," said Jonathan Tisdall, an international master who is Speelman's chief second.

The closely contested encounter between Speelman and Timman featured a complicated struggle with the advantage switching throughout the game. In the adjourned position, Speelman has a rook and a pawn, and Timman a rook and a pawn.

If either match ends in a 4-4 tie, two further games will be played, followed if necessary by sudden death tiebreakers at increasingly high speeds.

The fifth round is scheduled for Sunday with the sixth Tuesday. Play in the adjourned game is scheduled to resume Monday, even though that means the fourth will not be completed until after the fifth is played.



Ivan Lendl



Miroslav Mecir

Lendl beats Mecir, wins Stuttgart Classic

STUTTGART (AP) — Ivan Lendl overcame a troublesome first serve Saturday to beat Olympic champion Miroslav Mecir, a fellow Czech, in five sets in the final of the \$350,000 Stuttgart Classic tennis tournament.

Lendl, the world's top ranked men's player, easily won the first set, 6-3, after twice breaking Mecir's serve.

But when Lendl started missing his first serves, Mecir took advantage to break him in the first game of the second set. He then held on to win the set, 6-4.

The third set was nearly a repeat of the second, with Lendl struggling and Mecir changing speed and playing steadily to win again, 6-4.

But in the fourth set, Lendl's serve and returns starting hitting

the mark, and he won easily, 6-1.

In the final set, Mecir dropped his serve in the first game, and Lendl quickly moved ahead to 2-0.

Mecir, who won the Stuttgart Classic last year, fought hard to beat back Lendl and overcame six deuces in the third game to make it 2-1.

Both men held serve for the remainder of play, with Lendl slapping a final backhand, cross-court shot that Mecir could not reach to win, 6-4, and end the match after 3 hours and 14 minutes.

Lendl takes home \$100,000 as winner of the tournament, and Mecir gets \$60,000.

Some 6,500 fans watched the finals at Stuttgart's Hans-Martin Schleyer Hall.

Gilbert defeats Brown

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Top-seeded Brad Gilbert defeated unseeded Jimmy Brown in straight sets Saturday night to face second-seeded Andre Agassi in the final of the \$415,000 Prudential-Bache Securities tennis classic.

Gilbert, 28, of the U.S., waited out a two-hour rain delay, then took only 1 hour and 10 minutes to beat Brown, of Largo, 6-3, 6-1.

Gilbert broke Brown in the fourth game of the match with a running backhand passing shot, and then quickly moved to a 5-1 advantage. Brown perked up briefly, saving four set points and holding his own serve to 3-5.

But Gilbert quickly bounced back to clinch the match by winning seven of the next eight games.

Earlier, Agassi beat fifth-seeded Jaime Yzaga of Peru 6-1, 6-1 in less than an hour to move into the final.

Agassi, 19, of the U.S., won 20 of the first 26 points to grab a 5-0 lead and capture the first set in only 24 minutes.

After a brief rain delay, the fireworks began during the open-

ing game of the second set, when chair umpire David Littlefield gave Agassi a warning for an audible obscenity. Moments later, after dropping his service, Yzaga received a warning for slamming his racket on to the court.

While serving at 3-0, love-30, Agassi became incensed when Littlefield belatedly overruled a linesperson's call, depriving him of a service ace. Agassi disputed the call and was assessed a penalty point for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"If there's one thing an umpire shouldn't make a mistake on is the rules," Agassi said later, "and that's exactly what he did."

When the match ended, Agassi climbed up on the umpire's chair and hugged Littlefield to the delight of the near-sellout crowd.

Afterward, Eduardo Menga, the men's tennis council supervisor of officials, announced that Agassi had been fined \$500 for the audible obscenity, adding that Agassi had been privately warned following his Friday night quarterfinal victory over David Wheaton.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION CUP: U.S. in final against Spain

TOKYO (R) — Martina Navratilova survived a fierce challenge from Czechoslovak Helena Sukova to lead top-seeded United States to a 2-0 victory Sunday and power them into the finals of the Federation Cup women's team tennis championship.

The veteran U.S. team, going for a record 13th cup win, will do battle in the final with the young but gifted Spanish second seeds who eliminated Australia to earn their country a first shot at the most coveted team trophy in women's tennis.

Both doubles matches were cancelled due to rain but by that time both Spain and the United States had taken unbeatable 2-0 leads.

Chris Evert, highly-charged during her last appearance wearing the "stars and stripes" skirt of the United States, drew first blood against defending champions and third seeds Czechoslovakia with a workmanlike, destruction of off-form Jana Novotna 6-2, 6-3.

But Navratilova, ranked number two in the world, lost the first set and had to survive a break point in the third to prevail over eighth-ranked Sukova 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in one hour and 31 minutes.

The win avenged two consecutive defeats by Sukova and held added poignance because until she became a U.S. citizen in 1981 Navratilova had played Federation Cup tournaments for her native Czechoslovakia.

Sukova hit five aces and five double faults, three more of each than Navratilova.

Both played exciting serve-and-volley tennis but while Sukova relied almost entirely on power, Navratilova peppered her game with some gentle drop shots.

Her faded athleticism also worked in her favour.

"I just beat her to the net a few times," said Navratilova. "Helena served very well. It was either her serve or the next groundstroke that gave me trouble."

Sukova squandered a chance by ploughing a weak forehand into the net to forfeit a break point in the seventh game of the deciding set. Navratilova then let fly a scream of determination and went on to save the game.

With Sukova serving at 4-5 down, the American charged to the net three times and pulled off graceful volleys to give herself two match points.

Sukova saved one but then crumpled, skewing a backhand into the net to lose the match.

"I chipped and charged three times in succession and it worked," said Navratilova.

Sukova said a thigh muscle she



Martina Navratilova

pulled during the third set hampered her agility.

Navratilova's first set loss was the only one the highly fancied U.S. team has suffered in their march to the final. But they were taking nothing for granted about their clash with Spain.

"It will be tough," said Evert, competing in her ninth and final Federation Cup before she retires.

"The two singles could go either way, but I feel most confident of the doubles."

Spain's 17-year-old prodigies, French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez have lost all their previous encounters with Navratilova and Evert.

But on Sunday the Spaniards showed why they have been seeded second. Sanchez Vicario was in devastating form in the first set of her 6-1, 4-6, 6-2 win over unseeded Australia's Anne Minter.

"I played very well in the first set but lost a little concentration in the second," said Spain's number one. "But I was always in control of the game."

Martinez, ranked 10th in the world, did not drop her serve once in her 6-3, 6-2 win over Australia's Elizabeth Smylie.

She played a brand of accurate and composed baseline tennis that might have been taught by 34-year-old Evert, her rival in Monday's final.

E. Germans beat Soviets

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany beat the Soviet Union 2-1 Sunday, keeping alive their World Cup qualifying hopes with a two-goal burst in the final 10 minutes.

Gennady Litovchenko seemed to have sealed East Germany's doom and the Soviet Union's place in next year's finals with a cracking volley from the edge of the penalty area 12 minutes from the end of the match after Oleg Protasov had crossed from the right.

But just two minutes later Andreas Thom latched on to a cross fumbled by Soviet goalkeeper Viktor Chanov and headed it into the top corner of the net.

East Germany, sensing a chance of survival, surged forward as the Soviet team pulled back in the hope of salvaging the point they needed to qualify.

Eight minutes from time Marthias Sammer collected a corner

from the right and, with the Soviet defence in chaos, smashed the ball into the net from 20 metres with Chanov unsighted.

It was only the fourth East German victory against the Soviet Union in 17 matches.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR ELIAH
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HANDLE WITH CARE

Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ 10 9 8 6 5
♥ A 2
♦ A 2
♣ K 9 8 6 2
SOUTH
♠ 7 4 2
♥ 9 8 5
♦ 5 4 3
♣ 4 2

convention. When East's four-spade preempt came back to him, North bid four no trump to force his partner to choose a minor suit.

Against five diamonds, West led the king of spades. Since there was a sure heart loser unless there was a very lucky bid of the club suit, as was indeed the case, declarer had to limit his club losers to one. The best line was to plan to take two finesses.

Since two entries would be needed for that, declarer carefully ruffed the first trick with the six.

The ace and king of diamonds were cashed, and the thoughtfully-preserved deuce was overtaken with the five. A low club was led to the nine and queen, and the spade return was ruffed. Dummy's last trump was overtaken with the jack and the eight of clubs was run. When that won, a repeat finesse enabled declarer to bring in the suit.

Note that declarer had to retain his eight of clubs and lead it for the second finesse. If he wastes it on the first club finesse, or does not lead it the second time around, he will end up in dummy after taking the second finesse, but since he has no way of getting back to hand for another finesse, the 4-1 break will prove fatal to the contract.

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Silenus	7 Camera's eye
5 Save	8 Corrupted
9 Rock and --	10 Study
13 A Johnson	11 Chit
14 Term at sea	12 Nether and
15 Mock	13 Short ribs
16 "Happy --"	14 Loose robes
(start of Barrymore quote)	15 Gashed
19 Librarians	16 Farrow
20 Santa river	17 Owl site
21 Unknown guy	18 Gaffer's club
22 Crew	19 Worth
23 Coffer	20 Spilled
24 Politician	21 Rhetoric
25 Babe	22 Ad --
26 Ties a risk	23 Zodiac sign
27 Pricilla's beau	24 Common
28 Moved a raft	25 At race track
29 " -- Women"	26 Disagreement
30 Moss of quote	27 Helen Hunt
31 Numerical prefix	28 Jackson novel
32 Explorer La --	29 Army gp.
33 Enorm	30 NFL gp.
34 Thompson --	31 Common
35 Dr. gun	32 At race track
36 Box and Dec.	33 Disagreement
37 Cable meter	34 Helen Hunt
38 Adman's avenue	35 Jackson novel
39 Trash	36 Army gp.
40 Coloring	37 Common
41 Weight unit	38 At race track
42 "A Bell for --"	39 Disagreement
43 End of quote	40 Helen Hunt
44 Actor Alvin	41 Jackson novel
45 Zep of --	42 Army gp.
46 Author Exile	43 Common
47 Political cartoonist	44 At race track
48 These	45 Disagreement
49 Whipping	46 Helen Hunt
50 DOWN	47 Jackson novel
1 -- de deux	48 Army gp.
2 Pooled vase	49 Common
3 South -- Marie	50 At race track
4 Lingo to	51 Disagreement
5 Saw loosely	52 Helen Hunt
6 AM a.p.	53 Jackson novel

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across	2 Down	3 Across	4 Down
5 Across	6 Down	7 Across	8 Down
9 Across	10 Down	11 Across	12 Down
13 Across	14 Down	15 Across	16 Down
17 Across	18 Down	19 Across	20 Down
21 Across	22 Down	23 Across	24 Down
25 Across	26 Down	27 Across	28 Down
29 Across	30 Down	31 Across	32 Down
33 Across	34 Down	35 Across	36 Down
37 Across	38 Down	39 Across	40 Down
41 Across	42 Down	43 Across	44 Down
45 Across	46 Down	47 Across	48 Down
49 Across	50 Down	51 Across	52 Down
53 Across	54 Down	55 Across	56 Down

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JOB**

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East German leader Erich Honecker accompanied by Soviet soldiers at a wreath-laying ceremony Thursday to mark the 40th anniversary of the East German state.

E. German anniversary ends in street battles

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Hundreds were detained and dozens injured when East Germans ended the country's 40th anniversary celebrations by taking to the streets to demand political reforms in the largest protest since 1953.

Authorities blamed Western news media and "hooligans" for provoking unrest in several cities of the hardline communist state Saturday night.

Riot police supported by jack-booted troops from the state security ministry battled thousands of protesters in the country's biggest upsurge of political unrest since a workers' uprising against communist domination 36 years ago.

Thousands took to the streets to demand help from visiting Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Saturday was the state's 40th birthday.

Protestant church sources told Reuters that riot squads and elite Security Ministry troops detained up to 700 demonstrators during clashes in East Berlin through the night well into early Sunday.

Between 80 and 100 people were injured, according to Reuters.

Other witnesses quoted by the AP, including Associated Press reporters covering the demonstrations Saturday, estimated that police may have arrested as many as 1,000 people in East Berlin alone.

Peter Miller, a reporter for the Sunday Times of London, said he was detained for six hours Sunday before being released and ordered to leave the country. He estimated that about 1,000 demonstrators were being held at the East Berlin jail where he was taken.

Reuters sources had no immediate details on casualties or deten-

450,000 leaving in the past month alone.

Eyewitnesses said police in Dresden, which experienced its fourth night of demonstrations, fired teargas and used water cannon to disperse over 5,000 protesters who marched through the elegant city on the river Elbe.

In Leipzig some police shouldered submachine-guns while others chased demonstrators with truncheons.

East Berlin's demonstration grew suddenly Saturday afternoon after about 150 youngsters began shouting "freedom, freedom" on the central Alexander square where the authorities had set up stalls and dance-arenas for anniversary celebrations.

More and more people joined in as the protesters set off to the nearby Palace of the Republic, a cavernous smoked-glass and marble building where Gorbachev attended a reception with East German leader Erich Honecker and other dignitaries.

Police quickly sealed off access and people chanted for Gorbachev to help them, called for reforms and screamed "stasi (security police) out" and "police out."

But Gorbachev failed to appear in public again and left for Moscow.

Demonstrators, by this stage over 5,000, filled the main street heading away from the palace out of town towards the Gethsemane church, scene of a round-the-clock vigil for detainees from previous protests in Leipzig and elsewhere.

As some of the crowd drifted away, police sealed off streets in the crumbling Prenzlauer Berg district, called in the State Security Ministry troops and volunteer workers' militia and brought up trucks with wide barriers,

metres, then dives towards a speck of a target.

The pilot has to concentrate on the degree of the dive, the location of the target, the speed of his plane, wind and other factors.

While focused on the target and the precise second to press the "pickle button" — whose nickname is part of the arcane jargon of the flight world — the pilot must also "fly stable so the radar can get an accurate look at the target," Williams explained.

A pilot's concentration on his target is crucial. Williams said.

The red button that releases the bombs is just one of the pilot's many concerns as he flashes 60 metres above the desert floor at 643 kilometres per hour, pops up to 300

Hungarians dump communism

BUDAPEST (R) — In a move unprecedented in the history of communism, Hungary's ruling party has voted itself out of existence and created a socialist party pledged to Western-style democracy.

A large majority of nearly 1,300 delegates voted for the move late Saturday, the second day of an extraordinary Communist Party congress.

"An era has come to end," Janos Barabas, senior ideologist of the defunct party, told a news conference. "The party-state has come to end."

The Communists took power in Hungary in the late 1940s and survived a bloody uprising in October and November 1956 which was quelled by Soviet

tanks. The party was led from then until May 1988 by Janos Kadar, who died last July.

Only 159 delegates voted against the call by party President Keszto Nyers to dump more than 40 years of Marxism-Leninism.

Opponents included Karoly Grosz, who launched Hungary's current wave of reform by ousting Kadar but has been swept away in the tide.

But Nyers, who took over the leadership from Grosz in June, managed to avoid a major split believed to be on the cards by stressing the need for unity at a sensitive time of transition to democracy.

Parliament is due to pass laws this month legalising non-Communist parties in preparation for

multi-party elections by the middle of next year, the first since 1947.

Nyers, a 66-year-old former social democrat once dropped from the leadership by Kadar because he pushed the reformist line, is virtually certain to be elected president of the new Hungarian Socialist Party in a vote expected Monday.

Delegates were Sunday debating the new party's programme, which will include a commitment to a mixed economy and democracy both inside and outside the party.

"The foundation of the new party is an act of crucial importance for Hungarian democracy, constitutionality and the continu-

ty of socialism. It is a progressive historical step that every socialist should support," Nyers said.

Nyers appealed to Hungary's opposition groups to cooperate with him as the country moved away from a one-party system.

The opposition movements, though relatively small and inexperienced, stunned the Communists by winning four by-elections this year. Polls suggested the old party stood little chance of winning a majority in next year's elections.

Some opposition activists suggested before Saturday's vote that the new party might be little more than the old party with a new sign on its door unless it dropped a large number of conservative diehards.

Colombo inches towards peace

COLOMBO (R) — The government and the main opposition group have moved closer towards a solution to Sri Lanka's bloody political violence, official sources said.

They described as a step forward a four-point peace plan which emerged at talks between President Ranasinghe Premadasa and opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike.

"They have come much closer. It shows a considerable degree of agreement. It's a good sign," said an official who was present at the talks.

A statement from the president's office Saturday said the two leaders agreed to consider the four steps subject to ratification by all political parties.

The plan calls for consensus on ways of restoring peace, a referendum on the island's presidential system, an interim administration including all parties and agreement on the administration's programme.

The two leaders met as part of a process of consultations which Premadasa has launched with all political parties in a bid to end violence which has killed more than 5,000 people in the past two years.

The response of the rebel People's Liberation Front, blamed for the violence in its attempt to topple the government, remained uncertain.

The front, supported by youths

of the majority Sinhalese community, boycotted last month's first session of an all-party conference convened by Premadasa to seek a peace formula.

A conference source said the four-point plan would be placed before the second session next Thursday which is expected to be attended by more than 20 political parties. The front has also been invited.

"We consider the all-party conference as a victory," Premadasa told a meeting of his ruling United National Party Saturday.

"It has brought together parties which opposed us at the last elections. They have come together to save the country from the present catastrophe," he said.

About 30 killings are reported a day in Sri Lanka. The killings are attributed to the front and pro-government death squads.

The bodies of 21 young Sinhalese men were found Sunday at a fifth-century fort that is one of the island's most popular tourist spots, police said.

A police official said the bodies were found in gardens at the foot of the 180-metre-high Lion Rock, on which the red sandstone Sigiriya Fort is built.

Sigiriya is 150 kilometres northeast of Colombo.

The victims are believed to be Sinhalese extremists killed by pro-government vigilante groups, the official said. He said the killings could be in retaliation for



Two Tamil boys distributing leaflets of Tamil rebel groups in northern Sri Lanka

an attack on an army convoy in the region Friday, in which two soldiers were killed.

Sinhalese extremists were blamed for the convoy attack.

The victims found at the fort were shot and killed and some

bodies were later decapitated, the official said.

Human rights groups say the government actively supports vigilante groups in its campaign against Sinhalese radicals.

Bomb kills Ulster officer, 28 held in secret raid

BELFAST (R) — A Northern Ireland policeman was killed and his wife seriously injured Sunday when a booby-trap bomb exploded under their car.

Meanwhile police arrested 28 members of the locally recruited and mainly-Protestant Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) in probe into the leaking of intelligence files.

The policeman was killed instantly when the bomb exploded in Lisburn, the town that is the headquarters of the British army in Northern Ireland.

He was the fifth policeman killed this year in the province where Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas are battling to oust Britain.

In dawn raids across Belfast, 300 policemen swooped to arrest the 28 UDR soldiers and seize ammunition and photo montages of IRA suspects that may have been leaked to Protestant killer gangs.

John Stevens, head of a 17-man team of detectives probing a string of security leaks, confirmed they were all arrested as part of his investigation.

The leaks have deeply embarrassed Britain and angered the Dublin government which is calling for major reforms in the UDR

because the north's Catholic Nationalist minority has lost confidence in the security forces.

Two UDR soldiers were charged last month with the murder of a Catholic identified in stolen intelligence files as an IRA suspect.

The policeman's death followed a night of sporadic violence that suddenly erupted across Northern Ireland.

Eleven people were arrested and a soldier and two policemen were injured in a string of attacks on British security forces and some of the worst rioting seen in Northern Ireland this year.

Cars were hijacked and set ablaze in Belfast, a van full of mortar bombs was seized by police in Londonderry and two policemen were injured breaking up a crowd at a border bar in Belleek.

Elderly patients had to be evacuated from a Londonderry hospital when army bomb disposal experts moved in to defuse the van full of mortar bombs. One soldier was injured when one of the detonators went off.

"The driving of a van carrying explosives through a densely built up area shows the terrorists' total disregard for human life," a police spokesman said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippine Muslim leaders reject 'autonomy'

ZAMBOANGA (R) — Muslim religious leaders ended a two-day convention in Zamboanga Sunday with a call to reject the government's offer of autonomy for 13 southern Philippine provinces. The 200 leaders passed a resolution denouncing the offer a day after the army published a list of 127 towns and five cities "hot spots" for the Nov. 19 autonomy plebiscite. President Corason Aquino offered the autonomy plan for 13 provinces with mixed Christian and Muslim populations in hopes of ending Muslim unrest on Mindanao Island, where a separatist war in the 1970s killed more than 50,000 people.

Pilot killed in Indian air show

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian jet fighter pilot was killed and at least seven people injured Sunday when his Mirage 2000 crashed in a huge ball of yellow flame during an air force display. Witnesses said the pilot was performing solo aerobatics in the French-built jet when he failed to pull out of a vertical loop and plunged into the ground in the military area of Delhi airport. The fireball came within about 100 metres of where junior air force officers and their families were sitting with some 4,000 other spectators, sending people fleeing in panic.

Dutch police launch new anti-virus disk

AMSTERDAM (R) — An embarrassed Hague police department and a piqued Dutch university have launched a new computer disk to combat a "virus" primed to wipe out thousands of personal computer memories Friday Oct. 13. The new disk supercedes one put on sale by the Hague police Tuesday amid a massive publicity campaign. Rotterdam's Erasmus University, which created the anti-virus software, claims not only that it was copied and sold without permission, but that staff were bombarded with complaints because the programme was incomplete. A Hague police spokesman said they regretted the incident. Computer experts said in the Netherlands alone 100,000 personal computers, around 10 per cent of the total, had contracted the data-crime II virus programmed to sabotage computer memories, destroying everything stored on them.

Thousands march in Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — Tens of thousands marched on the Capitol Saturday to demand affordable housing and protest deep cuts in federal housing programmes which organisers blamed for the growing U.S. homeless problem. "Millions of people living on the streets of the wealthiest country on earth is wrong," said Mitch Snyder, veteran homeless activist who runs a shelter three blocks from the Capitol. March organisers said about 200,000 people swelled through the parks and monuments of Washington to rally at the steps of the Capitol. U.S. park police put the number at 40,000. "We will not rest until every child, every family, has a decent home and a living wage," declared Coretta Scott King, wife of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

Argentine president grants pardons

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem, seeking a reconciliation between civilians and the armed forces, said Saturday he had granted pardons to 39 military officers and 64 former guerrillas accused of crimes committed during last decade's so-called dirty war. Menem, who made the announcement from his home province of La Rioja, 1,100 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires, signed four decrees for the pardons late Friday, government press director Adalberto Diaz Garcia told Reuters. "Difficult times await Argentina (but) I know we will overcome. That's why we speak about a reconciliation between Argentines to bring about the needed pacification," Menem said.



Coyotes in New York

KENT, New York (AP) — Apparently not in their regular neighbourhood, coyotes are being sighted in New York City's northern suburbs, officials say. Anthony Cazzari, town supervisor, said last week that when he walked out of his house Tuesday morning, he found "A strange-looking dog" staring at him. On a second look, he said, he realised there was a coyote in his yard. He ran inside to get a camera but the animal was gone when he came out. Coyotes are small wolves native to America's western prairies. They grow up to 1.2 metres long.

Charles gains 'strength' from polo

NEW YORK (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles says that playing a game of polo helps him maintain an image of a strong, tough leader, according to an interview published in the autumn issue of Polo Life that playing polo renews his mental and physical strength. "One of the things I've always felt strongly about in this position is leadership, or setting an example," he says. "I do believe it's very important to be seen not to be a chicken, to be leading from the front, showing you're prepared to do perhaps some of the more dangerous things." He says he almost never loses his temper while playing polo but admits: "I swear occasionally, not too loud." He is not going to force either of his sons to play the game he loves so much but admits he hopes they take up the sport. Polo Life is a publication of Fleet Street publishing corporation in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

'Guru' adopts new name

LAKE OSWEGO, Oregon (AP) — Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has adopted a new name — Osho — and given his followers a change of habit. Osho is a Japanese word that means "the whole man, the fully awakened one and respectfully symbolises a man of peace, grace and love upon whom existence is showering all its blessings from every direction," according to a statement from the sect's Oregon press service. Disciples also have begun wearing maroon robes during the day and white robes during evening meditations at the commune in Pune, India, the release said. In the years when the commune was based in Oregon, Rajneeshes wore various shades of red, but the 58-year-old guru later advised them to drop the practice to avoid harassment and discrimination. The self-described "rich man's guru," who teaches meditation as a means to enlightenment, returned to India four years ago after pleading guilty to U.S. immigration charges.

Note across the ocean

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — An eight-year-old boy stuck a message in a bottle, threw it into the ocean and waited for a response. He got one five years later — from England. "Hello Tommy," wrote 15-year-old Anya Leeds. "I don't know whether you remember sending your note in a bottle. We just found it on the other side of the Atlantic." Tom Mote, of Dania, whose son Tommy put the bottle in the ocean in July 1984, said: "I couldn't believe that bottle had been around for five years." The bottle was found by 10-year-old Gareth Williams on a beach in Penzance, on the southwest tip of England.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	10	14	57 Cloudy
ATHENS	10	20	68 Clear
BAHRAIN	24	75	83 Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	83 91 Cloudy
BEIJING	10	20	68 Clear
BOMBAY	18	28	82 Clear
CARACAS	18	24	73 Clear
CHICAGO	06	16	61 Clear
COPENHAGEN	10	14	57 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	04	28	82 Rain
GENEVA	08	15	61 Cloudy
HONG KONG	25	77	82 Clear
ISTANBUL	11	22	72 Cloudy
LONDON	12	14	57 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	17	25	78 Cloudy
MADRID	13	25	77 Clear
MEXICO	08	23	73 Clear
MONTREAL	05	13	55 Clear
MOSCOW	02	08	37 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	22	75	85 Clear
NEW YORK	12	23	71 Clear
PARIS	11	22	72 Cloudy
ROME	05	24	75 Cloudy
SEATTLE	05	21	70 Cloudy
SYDNEY	12	24	75 Clear
TOKYO	18	24	75 Rain
VIENNA	06	18	65 Rain

Air force bombers seek 'top gun' honour

By Robert Macy
The Associated Press

INDIAN SPRINGS, Nevada — The world's top jet fighter pilots are bombing and strafing targets on a bleak desert range, not in training for the next war, but in a competition for the coveted honour of "top gun."

At "Gunsmoke '89," a kind of championship for attack plane pilots from around the globe, the competition is unfolding this month during two weeks of daily simulated air attacks in two valleys 65 kilometres northwest of Las Vegas.

The biennial exercise at the sprawling Nellis Air Force base bombing and gunnery range draws the cream of the U.S. air force pilots and crews who have won regional competitions at

U.S. bases abroad. This year's competitors include teams from West Germany, Japan, the Philippines and Britain.

As smoke billowed from dummy bombs crashing around an old tank being used as a target Friday, Bud Williams explained the drill to visiting reporters.

Inside the cockpit of a fighter jet, computers tell the pilot when and where to drop his bombs, but the man at the controls still has to push the "pickle button" that releases the explosives, Williams explained.

The red button that releases the bombs is just one of the pilot's many concerns as he flashes 60 metres above the desert floor at 643 kilometres per hour, pops up to 300

metres, then dives towards a speck of a target.

The pilot has to concentrate on the degree of the dive, the location of the target, the speed of his plane, wind and other factors.

While focused on the target and the precise second to press the "pickle button" — whose nickname is part of the arcane jargon of the flight world — the pilot must also "fly stable so the radar can get an accurate look at the target," Williams explained.

A pilot's concentration on his target is crucial. Williams said.

The red button that releases the bombs is just one of the pilot's many concerns as he flashes 60 metres above the desert floor at 643 kilometres per hour, pops up to 300

metres, then dives towards a speck of a target.

While accidents are a hazard of military practice, the eight-

year-old competition has a perfect safety record.

"We've never lost a crew member or an aircraft," Williams said as an F-16 fighting Falcon roared overhead, banking sharply after dropping a bomb on a target half a mile (914 metres) away.

The dummy bombs provide only a flash of fire and a puff of smoke, leaving the target — an ageing tank — charred but reusable. The real thing would be a different story.

"A 500-pound (226-kilogram) bomb would scatter fragmentation for 3,000 feet (914 metres)," Williams said. "It would have a good kill radius of 300 feet (91 metres)."

On Friday, F-16 units from McEntire Air National Guard Base, South Carolina and Hill Air Force Base, Utah, com-

peted on the desert range, along with A-10s from Bentwaters, Britain.

After the bombing competition, the planes swept back through the valley, zeroing in on 7.6-metre square cloth targets strung across the desert floor.

The valley echoed with the car-piercing chatter of the 20-mm and 30-mm shells as pilots squeezed off bursts of gunfire from cannons that fire 4,200 rounds a minute.

Pilots fly seven days during the two-week event, which ends Oct. 14 and includes competitions among teams who load the weapons and maintain the planes.

There is even a competition to see which pilot lands closest to his designated arrival time at Nellis. Six flights arrived within one second of their designated time, Oct. 1.